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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES

On the 19th March, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. Champney Irwine, HAROLD HENRY BANISTER, second son of the late Henry RAINES, of Hull, to ANNE, fourth daughter of the late Edward A. OLIVER, of London.

On the 19th March, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., Rector, THOS. WALLACE, fourth son of the late Rev. John MOLLAITH, M.A., of Erskine, Renfrewshire, N.B., to EDITH HELEN EMMA, fourth daughter of A. T. WATSON, Esq., Yokohama.

DEATHS.

On the 2nd March, 1898, at Bombay, NERSER-WANJI DORABJI PATELL, *shahadhu*, brother-in-law of Kavasji Edulji Vaid, of Hongkong.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 23rd March, 1898, CHARLES SAW, Captain of the steamer *Energia*, aged 38 years.

At the Peak Hospital, on the 29th March, 1898, of typhoid fever, CHARLES TOMLIN, aged 31 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 22nd February arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gastie*, on the 26th March (32 days); the French mail of the 25th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 27th March (30 days); the American mail of the 3rd March arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 30th March (27 days); and the English mail of the 4th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Verona*, on the 1st April (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The ratifications of the new Franco-Japanese Treaty were exchanged at Tokyo on the 19th March.

The steamer *St. Mary*, from Antwerp for Japan, arrived at Colombo on the 9th March with her cargo on fire.

The Emperor of Japan is reported to have made inquiries recently as to the behaviour of the lower orders towards foreigners.

A highly successful ball was given by the civil community of Hongkong on the 29th March in honour of H.R.H. Prince Henry.

Medical inspection has been established at Hongkong with respect to Chinese passengers from Macao on account of the existence of plague and smallpox in the Portuguese colony.

It is reported that a foreign firm in Yokohama, dispatching a vessel to the United States was instructed to take out a war insurance risk, on account of the disturbed relations between the United States and Spain.

The O. S. S. Co's. steamer *Polyphemus*, homeward bound from the Far East, arrived at Colombo on the 10th March with her tunnel shaft broken, and was expected to be delayed there about fifteen or sixteen days.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—An interesting and important case which it is expected will involve almost as important points to the community as the famous Ince foreshore case, between Mr. H. Browett and the Municipal Council, is to be heard before the Court of Consuls, consisting of Dr. Stuebel, Senior Consul, Mr. John Goodnow, and Mr. Geo. Jamieson, on the 1st March, in the German Court.

M. Bons d'Anty, the French Consul at Szumao, who has received the appointment to the Consulate at Canton, will, we learn from the *Avenir du Tonkin*, go home on leave before taking up his new appointment. He has left Szumao for Talifu, whence he will go on to Bhamo and thence to Rangoon. At Rangoon he will proceed by steamer to Calcutta, cross to Bombay by rail, and complete his journey to France by the mail steamer.

The Manila authorities having received information of the existence of an illegal assembly in a house in the Calle de Camba, measures were taken to break it up, and at seven o'clock on the morning of the 25th March the house was raided. On entering, the guards found a number of men armed with knives and staves. They were called upon to surrender, but this they refused to do and offered resistance. The guards then attacked them, killing nine, wounding four, and taking the remainder, seventy-two in number, prisoners. Four of the guards were wounded, three slightly and one seriously.

References have recently been made by the Hamburg correspondent of the *London and China Express* to an alleged rush from Germany to Kiaochau. It was stated that "both the last Kingsin boat and first Hamburg-American liver going out to China have been full of passengers to the East, and of course to Kiaochau." The correspondent must have drawn on his imagination for his facts. The *Andalusia*, the first Hamburg-American boat, carried no passengers at all, as her cargo consisted in large part of explosives, and the *Wally*, the Kingsin boat referred to, had three passengers only, and we believe, they were not for Kiaochau.

On 7th March, Mr. J. N. Jordan, the British Consul-General of Seoul, received a telegram from his home Government informing him that he has been promoted to Charge d'Affaires to Korea. We congratulate Mr. Jordan and the British Government for taking this step. The commercial and political interests of Great Britain in this land require the presence of an official with powers even greater than that of a Charge d'Affaires.—*Korean Independent*.

The contract for the electric tramway between Machiapu, the terminus of the Tientsin-Peking Railway, and the Yungting gate of the capital—a distance of nearly two miles in length—has been given, according to a native report, to an Englishman by Governor Hu of Peking, and the materials for the new tramway, of course, have been ordered from England. The time set down for the completion of the tramway is six months after the signing of the contract.—*N. C. Daily News*.

According to despatches received from Nanking, the Viceroy Liu has received an Imperial edict by telegraph calling upon him to issue instructions to his subordinates in charge of tea, salt, and other likin stations throughout his jurisdiction bordering on the coast and the River banks, to close all these establishments in order to enable the Inspectorate of Imperial Maritime Customs to take charge of that portion of the revenues also by the 1st day of the 4th moon of the present year, i.e., the 20th of May, 1898. As there is an intercalary 3rd moon this year, the disestablished likin officials will have some seven weeks given them to close their establishments—a veritable period of grace to some of them.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The political situation during the past week has caused much excitement. The departure of the British fleet from Hongkong for the North, the activity in the Naval Yard, and the military preparations all indicate that some important point is pending settlement, but what that point is no one seems to know. A Reuter's telegram states that Mr. Balfour will make a statement of the Government's Chinese policy before Easter, and the statement is anxiously awaited. In the meantime Russia has occupied Port Arthur and the Chinese garrison has retired to Kinchow. The objections of Japan were understood to have been overcome by Russia's complete withdrawal from Korea. Whether Japan has really been satisfied now seems doubtful, but Mr. Alexieff and the other Russian officers in Korea, have been paid off and have left the country. Mr. de Speyer, the Russian Minister to Korea, has been recalled, whether as a result of dissatisfaction on the part of his Government or for other reasons is unknown. The position of the French negotiations is also uncertain. France has demanded a coaling station at Kwongchawwan, a guarantee that no part of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, or Yunnan shall be ceded to any other Power, railway and mining concessions, and the placing of the Chinese postal service under French direction. To residents in Hongkong the French demands seem to be of much more importance than those of Russia, but appearances indicate that in the view of the home Government the latter stand out more prominently. Owing to the uncertainty of the political situation only thirty per cent. of the Chinese loan was subscribed for in Great Britain.

RUSSIA'S DEMANDS.

China is now reported to have agreed to all the demands of Russia. These include a lease of Port Arthur and Talienwan and the right to construct the railway through Manchuria. During the last day or two alarming rumours have been in circulation in connection with the order received by the vessels of the British fleet in Hongkong to proceed to the North. There is little likelihood, however, of the fleet being called upon to engage in hostilities. Practically Great Britain has already assented to the Russian occupation of a Chinese port or ports on condition that they were opened to trade, and Russia has given an assurance upon that point. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that the mission upon which the fleet is proceeding is not to turn Russia out of the places she has occupied. What its mission really is, however, it is not easy to surmise. Presumably Great Britain has preferred some demand, or has some interest to protect, in connection with which it is considered her diplomacy requires to be strengthened by a display of force. It would be good news to hear that the demand covered the re-occupation of Chusan, for with the establishment of other Powers in the North it becomes more than ever essential that Great Britain should possess a naval base further North than Hongkong.

Russia has now obtained the ice-free port for which she has so long been manoeuvring, but she has obtained it coupled with the condition that the port shall be open to the trade of all nations, and she has moreover withdrawn from Korea. There seemed at one time some danger of Korea becoming a Russian province, and a few months ago a Russian financial adviser was appointed over the head of Mr. McLEAVY BROWN, who received notice of dismissal. But Mr. McLEAVY BROWN is still in office, whereas M. ALEXIEFF has returned his portfolio and the Russian military instructors who were engaged by Korea are preparing to leave Seoul for Port Arthur. Russia's withdrawal from Korea is presumed to have been dictated by a desire to placate Japan as well as by the wish to avoid complications with England. Whether the withdrawal is intended to be permanent or not time alone can show, but the Peninsular Kingdom will probably be undisturbed by Russian intrigues for at least some years to come. It is reported to be Korea's intention to dispense with foreign assistance altogether, a policy which if adopted would materially retard the progress of the country; but whatever decision may be arrived at on that point it appears to be settled that the country is not to be absorbed by Russia, at least not just yet. It is said, however, that the offer to withdraw the Russian officers was a piece of bluff on the part of M. DE SPEYER, the intention being to frighten Korea, but the latter, instead of being frightened promptly accepted the offer. The recall of M. DE SPEYER lends colour to this view, though on the other hand it is difficult to believe that he could have acted as he did without instructions.

Russia's demands on China included not only the lease of Port Arthur and Talienwan and the right to construct the Manchurian railway, but also the dismissal of the British engineers engaged on the existing Chinese railways. If this demand has been acceded to it may explain the renewed activity of the British fleet. The dismissal of Mr. McLEAVY BROWN from the Korean service was strongly and successfully resisted by the British Government, and the dismissal of

Mr. KINDER and his staff from the Chinese railway service at the instance of a foreign Power would also be resisted. While China and Korea must, so long as their independence is recognised, be accorded some freedom in the engagement and dismissal of their foreign servants, it is not to be tolerated that British subjects should be dismissed at the dictation of any rival Power. The British Government has unmistakably declared its intention not to allow British interests to be discriminated against, and if Russia has demanded the dismissal of British subjects and China has agreed thereto they will find they have reckoned without the third party in the case.

RUSSIAN AND FRENCH DESIGNS IN CHINA.

Once more there is an agitation of the political waters in the Far East. What is transpiring and wherefore the orders for the British ships to proceed North can only be guessed at. Those who might be expected to know will not say, and it is doubtful whether even they fully understand the meaning of the orders given. It was long ago known that Russia was seeking to negotiate a lease of Port Arthur. It appeared that the British Government thereupon bungled and suggested the opening of Talienwan as a treaty port with a view to neutralise the great strategic advantage that the possession of Port Arthur would confer on any Power securing it as a naval base. But although Russia was willing to place Port Arthur on equal terms with the Treaty ports of China so far as tariff is concerned, she was not willing either to withdraw the demand for its cession or to have Talienwan opened as a Treaty port. The British Government, we imagined, had by silence given its consent to this occupation of Manchuria by Russia, but according to all appearances it seems doubtful whether this was exactly what Lord SALISBURY's silence meant. Possibly, however, as already suggested, the Fleet have been ordered North for the purpose of backing up some new demand by Great Britain rendered necessary by the evolution of events. However this may be, we hope that there is no serious intention of opposing Russia's occupation of Port Arthur. Provided that we occupy Chusan as a *point d'appui* in Central China from which to protect British interests in Shanghai and on the Yangtze, it is immaterial whether Russia or China controls the Yellow Sea.

Far different, however, is the position which France seeks to create in South China. With cool audacity she seeks at one and the same time to procure from China a pledge that she will not cede to any other Power any port in the southern provinces and ask that one important strategic port in Kwangtung shall be ceded to herself. The demand is one that Great Britain should oppose to the bitter end. If there is any province in China more than another that is legitimately and specially within the sphere of British influence it is Kwangtung, and it would be simple madness for the British Government to admit the right of France or any other Power to establish a lien upon the territory. If France wants Hainan let her take it, but she must keep her hands off the Two Kwang. The proposal may have been made as a feeler, to see how far British complacency will extend. It has certainly gone very far. As a matter of fact Lord SALISBURY is not at all disposed to play the part of the dog in the manger. He has been complacent perhaps to the

verge of weakness, because he does not desire to stand in the way of legitimate aspirations. Thus he has recognised the reasonableness of Germany's desire for a naval station in Eastern Asia; he has not actively opposed the wish of Russia for an unfrozen port for the shoreward terminus of her great Trans-Siberian Railway, nor would he intervene to prevent France gaining any needful concession near her Tonkin frontier, or seek to baulk her in obtaining Hainan. But it is quite another thing when she openly endeavours to poach on the British manor. We have no desire to administer the neighbouring provinces, but we do intend that our commercial interests in them shall be duly conserved, and we shall be greatly surprised if these are not maintained even at the cost of war if necessary. In view, however, of this position, why are the vessels of our fleet all despatched North? The greatest danger lies nearest to our doors. Presumably our authorities have taken all matters into careful consideration, and are of opinion that a naval demonstration in North China is the proper card to play just now. But, with all due respect for the British Government, we think the time has gone by for merely making demonstrations, and that what is necessary now is either to acquiesce in the policy of partition and taking a share in the plunder, or to head a league of Powers opposed to any further aggression in the Far East, and to take concerted measures to prevent the spoliation of China. Mere protests, empty threats, or half measures are useless to stem the tide, and only expose Great Britain to contempt.

THE UNWISDOM OF BRITISH OPPOSITION TO RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA

In Mr. W. E. TAYLOR's report on the trade of China for 1897 will be found a reference to a new route adopted for the tea trade to Central Siberia. The tea is shipped from Hankow to London and thence to the Yenesei River, whence it reaches the Siberian Railway. A glance at the map will shew the circuitous nature of this route. It is much the same as if in order to reach the Hongkong Club from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank one had to go along Queen's Road to the Sailors' Home and back by the Praya. It was Lord SALISBURY, if our memory serves us aright, who recommended to young politicians the study of large maps. A study of the map of Asia will show the uselessness of any attempt to exclude Russia from Manchuria, possession of which will give her a short cut from the sea into Siberia. We may go to war with her about the matter, destroy her fleet, and delay the formal occupation of the province for a few years, but in the long run Russia is bound to get there all the same. The only possible way of excluding her would be to occupy the province ourselves, which is out of the question. The possession of Manchuria is an absolute necessity to Russia, and to attain it she will work incessantly, openly or secretly as circumstances may dictate, but never for a moment will her vigilance relax, and each little encroachment will pave the way for the next. The opposition of Great Britain, if there is to be opposition, can only be fitful and spasmodic, and must in the end yield to the steady and continuous pressure of Russia. In Siberia Russia possesses a domain greater in extent and possibly not inferior in natural wealth to Canada. That magnificent

domain she is now opening up by a railway, which is approaching completion, but she has no port on the eastern seaboard that is open all the year round, Vladivostock, her most southerly port, being ice bound for several months of the year. As a terminus for the great Trans-Siberian railway Vladivostock is therefore unsuitable. But adjoining Siberia at its south-eastern corner is the Chinese province of Manchuria, with its ports open all the year round and which would serve admirably as an outlet and inlet for the trade of Siberia. If Great Britain were circumstanced as Russia is nothing on earth would keep Manchuria out of our possession; we would be willing to buy it if it was for sale, or to fight for it if it could not be obtained otherwise, but we would have it by some means or other. Human nature is much the same all the world over, and we cannot be surprised that Russia should pursue a policy that we know very well we would ourselves pursue under similar circumstances.

But it may be said that the principle of doing as you would be done by has no place in the code of international relations and that every question must be looked at solely as affecting our own interests. In considering the subject upon that ground the conclusion arrived at must be that to fight with Russia about the sovereignty of Manchuria would be a stupendous mistake. Victory would no doubt attend our arms, but the net result of the campaign would show a big balance on the wrong side. In the first place, even if it were granted that it was desirable to keep Russia out of Manchuria, and supposing that that object was attained, the advantage would prove ephemeral, for Russia would immediately recommence working for the attainment of her own end, and would in the long run get all she wanted, not by means of open fighting, but by quietly and steadily pressing onward and taking advantage of every opportunity that offered. But, in the second place, it is not to our interest that Russia should be excluded from Manchuria, and to try to exclude her is suggestive of the operation of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. We do not like Russia's methods of government or her protectionist principles, but making full allowance for all drawbacks of that kind it must nevertheless be admitted that Manchuria would be much more profitable to us in Russia's hands than in Chinese hands.

Russia with a population only a quarter as great as that of China, and notwithstanding her protectionist principles, buys from Great Britain nearly twice as much as China. She will also prove a good customer in Siberia, and it is not to our interest to try to cripple our customer. The immense possibilities of Siberia are only beginning to dawn upon the world, but that extensive domain is in truth one of the most promising fields of trade amongst new countries, and as the possession of Manchuria is essential to its proper development it is to the interest of the world that Russia should have Manchuria. The completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway and its extension to Port Arthur or Talienwan may mean some diversion of traffic and may cut into some existing interests, but on the other hand it will afford a vast market for British goods and give employment to British shipping largely exceeding in amount any that it may take away. To Hongkong the Siberian trade will probably in course of time become more valuable even than our extensive and rapidly growing Pacific trade, and therefore from a local point of view we certainly can have no interest in trying to thwart Russia. It

is well that England should uphold the principle of the open door, that she should assert herself, and recover the prestige in the Far East that she forfeited by her negligence (rather than her weakness); but it is not well that she should oppose the opening by others of doors that she is not in a position to open herself. Where Russia touches British interests, as in demanding the dismissal of British subjects in the employ of the Chinese Government, or in endeavouring to secure control of the Chinese Customs, or in any like ways, it is the duty of the British Government to cry hands off, but it is neither our duty nor our interest to oppose the legitimate development and extension of Russia's Siberian possessions.

THE INSPECTORATE-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND BRITISH INTERESTS IN CHINA.

The *Board of Trade Journal* for February contains two articles which, appearing at the present juncture, may be considered to possess special significance. The *Journal* is edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade and its contents ordinarily consist of abstracts of official reports, British and foreign, and reprints or translations of newspaper articles bearing on trade questions. As a rule the editorial work consists of compilation and condensation only and does not include any original writing. The February number, however, furnishes an exception to this rule. The article on "British Commercial Relations with China" and the Establishment of the Inspectorate-General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, though a compilation, does not profess to be a mere summary of any particular public document, but embodies independent deductions and conclusions, and appears to have been written specially for the *Journal*, or, which is perhaps more probable, for the information in the first place of Her Majesty's Ministers, being then placed at the disposal of the Board of Trade for publication, with the view not only of enlightening the public in general as to our interests in China, but letting foreign Governments also see the position from a British standpoint. At all events, whatever the origin of the article, it is a useful and significant one. After a brief reference to the conditions prevailing in the pre-treaty days a summary is given of the various changes that followed the opening of the treaty ports, leading up to the establishment of the Inspectorate-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. By the General Regulations of Trade issued in pursuance of the Nanking Treaty, the Chinese Superintendent of Customs at each port was to adopt the means that he might judge most proper to prevent the revenue suffering by fraud and smuggling and the British Consul was to be security for all British merchant ships, and in the event of any instance of smuggling coming to his knowledge the Consul was instantly to apprise the Chinese Authorities of the fact. Following the British Treaties France and the United States also concluded Treaties, but neither of these contained any provision for Consular aid in the collection of the Chinese Customs revenue, as did the British Treaties. Unavailing negotiations with regard to the trade in opium continued for several years until at length, in 1851, the British Government resolved to withdraw the Consuls from any interference with the Chinese Customs. The chief British grievance was this, that while British traders were strictly supervised by their Consuls who

assisted the Chinese Customs authorities, other traders passed in goods almost without supervision, the Chinese having no Consular aid from other Powers. The confusion from want of proper machinery of administration, after the withdrawal of the British Consular aid to the collection of the revenue, was increased at Shanghai by the Taiping Rebellion of 1853. Then came the establishment of what we know as the Foreign Customs. The Tientsin Treaty provides that the Chinese Government may select any British subject to aid in the administration of Customs revenue and in the prevention of smuggling. The interposition thus established between the Chinese Customs authorities on the one hand, and the British traders on the other hand, was meant, the article in the *Journal* says, "not only to supply all that had been useful in the Hong merchants before the treaties of 1842-43, and in the British Consuls afterwards, until withdrawn by Lord PALMERSTON in 1851, but also to take up the construction and administration of a new and improved system of Chinese Customs under Art. 46 of the Treaty, representing, as towards the Chinese authorities, the views and requirements of the British traders, and, as towards the British traders, the views and requirements of the Chinese authorities. . . . It was fully recognised that the officer to be appointed by the Chinese Government as Inspector-General must, in the order of things, be a British subject, whilst the Commissioners at the Ports and the foreign members of the Service, appointed by the Inspector-General himself, should be subjects of the various Powers with whom China had treaties—the principal feature of the service therefore being a Cosmopolitan staff, and its first essential being one Chief, and such Chief a British subject." An attempt was recently made to wrest the office of Inspector-General from British hands, but was frustrated, and it has now been formally agreed that as long as British trade with China exceeds that of other Powers the Inspector-General shall be a British subject. It is satisfactory to know that the point has been so decisively settled, and it is also satisfactory to have a semi-official announcement such as that published in the *Journal* of the ground taken up by the British Government. The article is followed by statistics compiled from the Chinese Customs returns for 1896 showing that Great Britain carries 82 per cent. of the total trade with China under foreign flags and pays 76 per cent. of the dues and duties collected on that trade.

Another article in the *Journal* is entitled "The Trade and Shipping of the Yangtsze-kiang," in which a good deal of information is given regarding the working of the transit pass system, and statistics are compiled showing the share of Great Britain in the trade. The article concludes as follows:—"It may be again pointed out that the great river is the chief commercial artery of China, down which will eventually be carried the principal products of the Empire. The vast mineral resources, the copper, iron ore, and coal of Yunnan, Szechuen, and Hupeh, the white wax of Szechuen and the Indian ink of Nganwei, the China clay of Kiangsi, and the silk and silk manufactures of all the central provinces must all find their way via the treaty ports of the river to their proper outlet at Shanghai and thence to the markets of the Western world." This is the reason why England is so determined that the Yangtsze trade shall not be interfered with in any way. There appears,

however, to be some danger that while attention is so strongly concentrated on the Yangtze the importance of our interests in the South may be underestimated or overlooked. In this connection we would invite attention to the following extract from an excellent article on the *Japan Mail*:—

She [France] asks China to guarantee that no part of the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan shall be ceded to a Foreign Power. What does that mean? Considered cursorily, it appears to be analogous to England's recently obtained guarantee that no part of the Yangtze Valley be alienated. But in truth the two conditions are radically different. England's object is to secure the free navigation of China's great waterway, which, with its tributaries, affords access to some sixteen provinces. The closing of the Yangtze to British vessels would involve the ruin of British trade with China, and England is determined that it shall be kept open to the ships of all nations and that no foreign Power shall acquire a position from which its navigation could be interrupted, or the freedom of trade on its waters hampered. A guarantee with regard to the three provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan cannot be construed in any similar sense. It is plainly an attempt to establish a "sphere of influence" with a view to future contingencies. In short, the recent proceedings of Russia and France are obviously directed to the dismemberment of the Chinese empire; Russia taking Manchuria, with, perhaps, the vast project of gradual extension thence in westerly and northerly directions until all the provinces north of the Yellow River, together with Mongolia, are absorbed; France appropriating the three southern provinces, and England being left to work out her destiny in Central China along the Yangtze Valley, sandwiched between Russia and France. It is a stupendous programme, but the demands formulated from St. Petersburg and Paris are unmistakable pointers. England, however, already possesses an island lying off the coast of Kwangtung, where she has created the Liverpool of the East. She also possesses a portion of the mainland of Kwangtung, and has been for some time openly thinking of asking for more. She has, further, large trade operations with Canton, and it was through her enterprise that the West River was opened, which runs through two of the very provinces included in the French demand. It must be presumed that England intends to keep the West River open to the trade of the world just as she intends to keep the Yangtze open. The establishment of French control in Kwangtung and Kwangsi would mean the ruin of Hongkong and the exclusion of British commerce from Canton and the whole of the regions watered by the West River. That would scarcely be tolerable.

EXPULSION OF A BRITISH JOURNALIST FROM SIAM.

The expulsion of a British journalist from Siam has naturally excited great interest at Bangkok, and the subject is discussed at length in the journal affected and the other local papers. Mr. LILLIE has declared that he will not leave the country voluntarily and presumably he will therefore be placed by force upon a steamer leaving for Singapore or other British port. He has further declared his intention of taking legal proceedings in the home courts against the British Minister in Siam. Meantime his newspaper, the *Siam Free Press*, was advertised to be sold by auction on the 16th inst. The Siamese Government has no doubt received extreme provocation from Mr. LILLIE, but the course it has taken in expelling him appears to be a blunder. The adoption of that course was only rendered possible by the withdrawal of British protection from Mr. LILLIE, and the legality of the withdrawal is doubtful. Mr. LILLIE is not only a British subject, but has also, it is stated, complied with the forms necessary to establish his nation-

ality in Siam, having been duly registered at the consulate. Under these circumstances he was therefore subject to British jurisdiction alone; if he had committed any offence it was by the British courts that he should have been tried and, if found guilty, sentenced. We do not see how the British Government could legally divest itself of its responsibility in regard to Mr. LILLIE and abandon him to the Siamese authorities for deportation. If they can abandon a British subject for deportation they might equally well allow him to be imprisoned or executed by the native authorities, a course which could under no circumstances be tolerated. It would appear, therefore, that the British Government have blundered no less than the Siamese.

The blunder of the Siamese is more in the nature of an indiscretion than of an illegality, for if Mr. LILLIE was not entitled to foreign protection the Siamese Government would be within its rights in expelling him. The indiscretion seems to have been a matter of temper. Mr. LILLIE's writings, which appeared to be intended to stir up difficulties between France and Siam and to incite the French nation to aggressive action against Siam, were no doubt exasperating, but it would have been better either to have treated them with contempt or to have taken constitutional action against the writer in the courts of his own nationality. Newspapers have within recent years had to be proceeded against both in Egypt and India for incendiary or seditious writings, and the same course might have been adopted in Siam. If the law did not quite meet the case a short order would readily have made it do so. The Order in Council authorises the Minister to make regulations "for maintaining friendly relations between British subjects and Siamese subjects and authorities," and a regulation could be made under that authority which would constitute abusive and insulting writings of and concerning the King and Government of Siam a punishable offence. This might seem like opening the door to a press censorship, but, highly as we appreciate liberty of speech and writing, we cannot but recognise that in a country like Siam, where foreigners are not subject to the law of the land, there may be especial reasons why the liberty of the press should not be allowed to degenerate into licence, or the cloak of Her Majesty's protection be made use of for the purpose of reviling a friendly sovereign or promoting schemes against the integrity of his dominions. As the matter stands, however, Mr. LILLIE seems to have been dealt with illegally, and although his conduct has not been such as to win for him much sympathy, he is entitled to a fair trial and to be allowed to defend himself. By proceeding against him as they have the Siamese Government will, to a large proportion of the public, appear to have acted tyrannically, and will also attract attention to the writings complained of and give them a fictitious weight and importance. Their action will, moreover, in all probability prove futile to attain the immediate end aimed at, namely, the cessation of such writings, for with the powers believed to be behind the *Siam Free Press* it is to be presumed that the paper will continue to be published, though nominally under a different editorship, and that it will still pursue an anti-Siamese campaign.

The Hon. H. E. Wodehouse has been invalided home and retires on a pension. He leaves in the *Empress of China* on Wednesday next.

SUPREME COURT.

28th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

HOWARD AND ANOTHER V. ROBINSON.

The hearing of the case Howard and another v. Robinson, which was before the Court on January 13th, was resumed. The plaintiffs were Thomas Howard and Matthew John Denman Stephens, the defendant being Sir William Robinson, in his capacity as Governor of the colony. The claim was for a writ of mandamus, and the proceedings were taken under the provisions of section 85 of the code. A petition had been filed by the plaintiffs and an answer filed by the defendant, and his Lordship, the Chief Justice, in Chambers, had settled the issues arising between the parties on the pleadings and he had directed that the first two of these issues, which involve the settlement of important questions of law, should be disposed of first, and at the suggestion of the plaintiffs, with the consent of the learned Attorney-General, that the matter should be tried before their Lordships sitting as a full court. The questions of law were:—(1) Assuming that the property or business of the plaintiffs has suffered depreciation or been injuriously affected by reason of the works authorised by the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, does the said Ordinance throw any duty on the defendant to inquire into and assess the amount of such depreciation or injuries affecting them? (2) If such duty is thrown on the defendant, is it one which the Court, having regard to the provisions of said Ordinance, can properly enforce the performance of by a writ of mandamus?

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiffs, and the Attorney-General, the Hon. W. M. Goodman (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denuys, Crown Solicitor) for the defendant.

The Attorney-General said that since the last date of the arguing in this case, the argument with regard to the point of law on one of the issues raised in the action, the defendant had left the colony. He left on the 1st February, and from that time ceased to be Governor, and it became impossible for him, even if a mandamus had been issued, to comply with the desire of the plaintiffs that he should assess the damages alleged to have been suffered by the plaintiffs. If these were issues which arose only in the action, it seemed to him that the object of the action had come to an end. The remedy sought in the action could not be given with any sort of reason, because it would be impossible for the defendant to carry out the prayer of the petition, and there was an element in the case which could not be lost sight of, namely, the exercise of the discretion of the Governor for the time being. It might be said why not amend the petition by putting in the name of the Governor for the time being, and suggestions of that sort had been made by letter but he denied that this could be done.

Mr. Francis, interrupting, said he objected to any evidence being put before the Court except by affidavit. He had simply come there to continue the argument on the issue of law. He had not had notice of any application. If the Attorney-General had any application to make as to the dismissal of the suit it should be by notice. As he had said before, he was there simply to continue the argument on the issue of law set down for discussion before the Court and for no other purpose.

The Attorney-General said he mentioned to the Crown Solicitor before coming to the Court that it might be necessary to file an affidavit as to the absence of Sir William Robinson, but it seemed to him to be one of those facts of which the Court had taken notice. The fact that Sir William Robinson had ceased to be Governor of the colony was a public fact, seeing that it had been gazetted, and it seemed to him to be somewhat superfluous to make such an affidavit, but if one were required he suggested that he should make his application and his remarks might be

taken subject to an affidavit being made if required. But he submitted that the fact that Sir William Robinson had left the colony and that Major-General Black was now Acting-Governor was a fact of which the Court was cognisant.

Mr. Francis—I object to the question being gone into at all, without previous notice.

The Chief Justice—He is entitled to argue whether he can go into it.

Mr. Francis—I understand he is arguing it on its merits.

The Attorney-General said it would be very inconvenient for the Court to continue to argue an issue of law in an action seeing that since the argument on that issue of law was raised a matter of public notoriety had occurred and a matter of which he submitted the Court should take judicial notice, namely, that the defendant was no longer Governor of the colony. The fact of such an event having occurred since the argument was commenced rendered the further procedure of the action not only useless but clearly undesirable and a pure waste of time. It seemed to him that his Lordship would scarcely desire to hear him further on one of the issues named in the action. It did not follow that because one Governor refused to do a thing another would refuse to do it.

The Chief Justice—You cannot decide a question of this kind off-hand; it will have to be argued properly.

Mr. Francis, referring to some correspondence which had passed, and which the Attorney-General had mentioned, said that correspondence between the solicitors or between the parties with reference to any particular matter could never be a proper substitute for the ordinary notice of such matters as would be brought before the court. Such questions might or might not have been within the consideration of the parties. He had not thought it advisable under existing circumstances to make any application for leave to amend. He was waiting to see what steps the Attorney-General, representing Sir William Robinson as the Governor of the colony, proposed to take, whether he proposed to continue the argument or make any application to the Court. If he had had notice of any application to the Court he should have filed a counter notice according to the nature of that application. Therefore if the Attorney-General desired the Court to take any action which would interfere with the ordinary progress of the case he ought to have given proper notice. That would have given him the opportunity of either answering his affidavit or of filing a counter notice. He thought he was entitled to assume, seeing that the Attorney-General had not given notice of any such application, that he was coming there to continue the argument which was adjourned. He also wished to call attention to the fact that the adjournment of these proceedings was entirely the act of the Court. It was in consequence of the press of business that the argument could not go on on the 16th January.

The Chief Justice said the fact of this question having arisen at all must lie on the shoulders of the plaintiffs. The action commenced two years ago or more, and it was only just before Sir William Robinson left the colony that plaintiffs brought it into court.

Mr. Francis said he was simply calling attention to the fact that the case was down for hearing on January 24th and the court could not take it. Continuing, he said the case was against Sir William either in his individual capacity or in his corporate capacity as Governor, and if it were against him in his quasi-corporate capacity as Governor his presence or absence could not make any possible difference. But the point at present was, were plaintiffs entitled to notice of any application which the Attorney-General proposed making, and he submitted that they were.

After a little further argument, the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge consulted for a few moments.

The Chief Justice then said they were both agreed with Mr. Francis that the question to be argued was the question of law raised in these issues. They both thought that the point raised by the Attorney-General should not be raised without fair notice being given to the other side, so that the other side might have been prepared to meet it in argument.

The point taken by the Attorney-General was that the suit was nullified and should be dismissed. They thought that that was a matter for argument. The Attorney-General was entitled to raise the point, but it should be argued. Therefore they thought that if the Attorney-General wished to insist on that point notice should be given to the other side that the point was to be raised, and it could be argued out on Tuesday or Wednesday. He thought the Attorney-General should also put evidence before the Court that Sir William Robinson had left the colony or had ceased to be Governor. That evidence could be given by the production of a proclamation to that effect or by affidavit.

The Attorney-General said he did not know whether his Lordship would allow him to read the correspondence which had taken place between the parties subject to it being placed on affidavit.

The Chief Justice—You must use your own discretion about a thing of that kind.

Mr. Francis—I would rather it was put in by affidavit and that I may have the opportunity of answering it by affidavit.

The Chief Justice—What is the point on the correspondence?

The Attorney-General—In the correspondence we said we should take this point.

The Chief Justice—What is the use of putting it in now when the Court has ruled there must be regular notice?

After a little further argument the Court adjourned.

30th March.

Sir William Robinson having left the colony on 1st February last, and having ceased to be Governor of the colony, each side gave notice of motion to amend, the notices being as follow:—

On behalf of the defendant:—"Take notice that this Court will be moved by the Attorney-General on behalf of the above-named Sir William Robinson on Wednesday, the 30th day of March, 1898, at 10.30 a.m., or as soon after as counsel can be heard, to give leave to introduce into the answer in this suit, by way of amendment, the fact that from the first day of February, 1898, the defendant, Sir William Robinson, ceased to be Governor of this colony, and to stay the further hearing of the arguments on the issues already settled until the question whether the Court could properly grant a mandamus directing the defendant after he has ceased to be Governor of Hongkong to do an act which can only be done by the Governor of such colony is decided, or until further order."

On behalf of the plaintiffs:—"Take notice that in the event of this honourable Court making any order on the notice of motion filed herein on the 28th inst. on the part of the above named defendant, this Court will be moved by John Joseph Francis, Q.C., on behalf of the above named plaintiffs, on Wednesday, the 30th day of March, 1898, at 10.30 o'clock a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, for leave to amend the writ of summons and pleadings herein by substituting for the name of the defendant, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., or for any other named defendant, the words 'Major General Wilson Black, C.B., the officer administering the Government of Hongkong,' or the words 'the Governor for the time being of the colony of Hongkong' as this Court shall think fit."

The Attorney-General, in support of his motion, submitted an affidavit filed by Mr. Dennys, the Crown Solicitor, and one filed by Mr. Deacon, the solicitor for the plaintiffs. Continuing, he said that this suit was begun on the 21st of February, 1896. The petition was filed on the 9th of March, 1896. There was no delay on the part of the Governor in replying, the answer being filed on the 24th of March, 1896. More than one year and eight months—during which Sir William Robinson was Governor of the colony—elapsed before, on the 1st of December, 1897, the defendants thought fit to issue a judge's summons to ascertain and determine the issues. The fact of the matter was that when it was known that Sir William Robinson was about to leave the colony, it seemed to strike plaintiffs that difficulties might

arise, and they began to disturb themselves in an action which had been lying asleep for over 20 months. But in order to explain the remarks he might have to address to his Lordship in reference to his motion it would be well to refer briefly to a part of the pleadings in the case. The writ was dated 21st February, 1896, and was between Thomas Howard and Matthew John Denman Stephens and Sir William Robinson. Plaintiffs claimed a writ of mandamus demanding that the defendant should proceed under section 7, Ordinance 16, 1889, sub-section 6, to enquire into and assess the damages suffered by the plaintiffs as the owners of certain land and the godown standing thereon in respect of depreciation in value of such land, defendant having, although requested so to do, refused to proceed under the section in question, and therefore the plaintiffs had no other remedy. This was a claim in which the only remedy was not a money compensation but a writ of mandamus.

The Chief Justice said that before the Attorney-General went further they would like to know from Mr. Francis whether he felt in a position to argue against the making of an order on the motion filed on behalf of the defendant. If Mr. Francis felt he could argue that point successfully of course they would let the argument go on. If he did not so feel then they proposed to take both motions together, one being the corollary of the other.

Mr. Francis said that as long as his Lordship left him at liberty to argue on both motions he could have no possible objection to their being argued or taken together.

The Chief Justice—I think it would be more convenient for the two to be argued together.

The Attorney-General said that what was asked for in the pleadings was the ordinary kind of compensation which would follow after the Reclamation Works had come in front of plaintiffs' godown. He did not think there was any dispute on that question. Certainly at the present time the Government had never said it would not take into consideration and fairly and rightly, even if only morally bound, decide as to any damage which might have occurred to Mr. Howard's premises in consequence of the Reclamation Works.

Mr. Francis—I submit that the Attorney-General should not be allowed to make a statement as to a question of fact which will necessitate argument and contradiction on my part.

The Attorney-General—You cannot deny my statement.

Mr. Francis—I can perfectly and thoroughly deny it. What the Government's intentions are is not the question.

The Attorney-General said he was pointing out that the plaintiffs in their pleadings stated that the Reclamation Works had come within a certain distance of their place, and that there had been some silting caused by the works having come too near. The petition required that the defendant should proceed "to enquire into and investigate the loss and damage suffered by the plaintiffs and to award compensation," and stated that the "defendant has refused and still refuses to perform his duties and to investigate and enquire, and award." The prayer was that the defendant by writ of mandamus should be compelled to enquire into and assess damages suffered by the plaintiffs. Before a mandamus was granted the person applying for it must have made a specific demand upon the person in respect of whom the mandamus was asked for and that person must have refused to comply with such demand, that person having the option of refusing or doing that which was required of him. This difficulty might arise if his learned friend asked the substitution of a new name—that of the Acting Governor—in regard to the writ of mandamus. The Acting Governor might say each Governor had the right to act as he thought fit in the exercise of his discretion, and that his discretion might differ from that of another Governor. There had been no application to the Acting Governor, and he thought it would be rather a hard thing to insert the name of a gentleman without asking "by your leave" or anything, when all he had to do with the matter was that he was discharging the duties which Her Majesty had required him to discharge, that of Acting Governor for a certain period. It would be a very hard thing if he were to find himself suddenly engaged in litigation and

made the defendant in a suit which after being asleep for a long time was revived refreshed by its slumbers apparently and broken out into great vigour again. Supposing his learned friend were to succeed what necessity would there be for any mandamus to compel the Governor to do a certain thing until it was ascertained whether he was inclined to do it or not? The discretion of one Governor did not bind another Governor in matters of this kind. It might have been a very inconvenient thing some years ago for a Governor to have had an enquiry as to the damage done a person by the alleged silting up of the fore shore. Had such an enquiry been held and the damages assessed at \$100 the same person might have come the following month and said "you have paid me \$100, but you have not assessed future damages." Therefore, it followed that if the enquiry had taken place some years ago it must have been as to how much damage had been done up to a given date. There would have been nothing to prevent the man coming six months afterwards and saying that the silting up was continued and in a rather aggravated form, and that he wanted more compensation. Continuing, the Attorney-General argued that if Sir William Robinson had died this action would have been in abeyance, and the course to be taken would have been to move the stay of proceedings. He was very glad that Sir William Robinson had not died, but for all practical purposes what was the difference between his dying and his ceasing to occupy the position of Governor so far as that action was concerned? As far as the motion went for staying proceedings, he should be quite willing to go in for such a form as the Court might direct. On the first blush he was inclined to make his motion say that the action should be dismissed, because he felt that unless an amendment was made—unless somebody was substituted—there was an end to the action. He would have moved that the action be dismissed if he could have found anything in the code authorising the dismissal of the action. That they could do so in England was abundantly clear. The time had now arrived when unless an amendment was made further proceedings in this particular action would be a pure waste of time.

The point was further argued between the Court and the Attorney-General, after which

The Chief Justice said there was no doubt that in a case like that a good deal depended upon the personality of the Governor. The plaintiffs alleged that Sir William Robinson, the late Governor, had refused to make an enquiry and investigate their claim for compensation for damages. They must take it for present purposes that that was so. Sir William Robinson had gone, and it was no use issuing a mandamus so far as he was concerned. The new Governor would be here shortly, and he should be very reluctant to order him to do a thing which he had never had the option of saying whether he would do or not. He suggested to Mr. Francis that it would be a reasonable and fair thing to make application to the new Governor. Of course if Mr. Francis declined to adopt this course they would hear any arguments he might have to advance.

Mr. Francis said he should certainly like to have the opportunity of considering the matter. It might be that there were matters known to him which it was difficult just then to refer to. It might be possible that there had been communications between the parties or between himself as representing the plaintiffs and the Attorney-General, that certain proposals had been made and had been refused, proposals of the character suggested by his Lordship—and it might be that the Attorney-General had taken up such an attitude which had led them to assume that the Government would act in the future as in the past. He would venture to suggest that it was possible that the late Governor might never have been personally troubled for ten minutes about the whole matter, and what had been done might simply have been the act of his Executive Council, or Colonial Secretary, or Attorney-General, who advised him and whose advice he accepted. The principal difficulty was this: that they had no reason whatever for believing that any difference whatever would be made in the advice given to the Governor. They had been refused any assurance whatever as to whether the Praya

was or was not to be extended beyond the land in question. That had been the excuse for putting them off. He would suggest that the delay of 20 months had occurred mainly in consequence, first of waiting for the return of the Attorney-General and afterwards with the view of getting some answer from the Attorney-General as to what he proposed to do. They had no assurance that after two or three months had been allowed to elapse and another application was made they would get any different answer than they had got already. The Attorney-General could have offered a definite suggestion and thrown upon them the onus of refusing. He understood the wish of the Court to be that there should be an immediate stay of proceedings.

The Chief Justice—The suggestion is that the new Governor should be given the opportunity of investigating, and your application for leave to amend should stand over.

After some little discussion on the point the Court adjourned to give Mr. Francis the opportunity of consulting with his clients.

On the Court re-assembling,

Mr. Francis said he had consulted with his clients, and they were quite prepared to consent to the carrying out of the suggestion of the Chief Justice, and he presumed that the order would be "that the argument and the cross motions for leave to amend stand adjourned *sine die*, with liberty to either party to apply." Would his Lordship also permit him to say—his client specially asked him to say it—that his client had been most anxious from beginning to end to settle the case without litigation if it could possibly be done, and at different stages he had mentioned the matter to him.

The Attorney-General said he had just told his learned friend what he told him some time ago, and that was that when the reclamation work was carried on in front of Mr. Howard's godown then would be the time for the investigation of the claim he had to damage by the interposition of the Reclamation Works between his godown and the harbour, and that when he made his claim for that damage the Attorney-General would have no objection to his making such further claim as he could substantiate for intermediate damage caused by the alleged silting up of his foreshore during the period before the Reclamation Works actually reached the front of his premises.

The Chief Justice thought this a very reasonable decision and hoped it would lead to very satisfactory results. They would bear in mind that the question of costs would have to be dealt with.

An order in the terms mentioned by Mr. Francis was then made, and the Court adjourned *sine die*.

31st March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.

Re THE SAMKEE FIRM.

Wong Weng and his son, who traded under the style of the Samkee firm as foreign goods dealers at 259, Queen's Road Central, came up for their public examination. The statement of affairs showed the gross liabilities to be \$17,448.59, the assets being put down at \$8,383.83, leaving a deficiency of \$9,064.76. Mr. Wilkinson represented the majority of the creditors.

In answer to the Official Receiver (Mr. Shepherd) the elder debtor said he was a foreign goods dealer and carried on business at 259, Queen's Road Central. He had carried on business in the same premises for 20 years under the style of the Samkee firm. When he started at first there were three other partners besides himself—Lee Si Chien, Wong Yek Wing, and Wong Sung Wi. They each put \$100 in the firm. Lee Si Chien went out of the business about January, 1895. Debtor bought his share and paid him \$700, which was paid in cash. He borrowed the money from two of his friends—Wong Tung Hing and Wong Qwai In—but did not take them in as partners. They were relations of his. He still owed them this \$700 and also a sum of \$500 to Wong Sung Wi.

Wong Yek Wing died in September or October, 1893. At the time of his death he was indebted to him in the sum of 600 taels and 170 dollars interest.

The Official Receiver—All the books are kept in taels. I have often tried to get these people to keep them in dollars, but they are unable to do so. They go actually into half cash and half cents.

Examination continued—Wong Yek Wing was his brother, and he took over his share. Wong Sung Wi, who came from the same village as himself, retired in 1895, and he bought his share, paying him \$700 in cash. He borrowed \$200 from Wong Qwai In and \$500 from Wong Tung Hing. The money was still owing. They had not pressed him for repayment because he paid them the interest every year. He had had no other partners. On January 26th, 1895, he transferred one of his shares to one of his sons without any consideration. He valued the share at \$700. At that time he owned four shares in the business, being the sole partner. His son was 14 years of age when he made him a present of this share, or 16 years of age according to Chinese reckoning. He wanted his son to learn the business and assist him in it. He was never in the Bankruptcy Court before and never in monetary difficulties until recently. The books produced were all he had except one—the stock book—which was missing. He did not know where it was. His son kept the books for him. His business had been going down since 1894 or 1895, at the time of the plague, losing \$616 dollars in 1895 and \$2,330 in 1896. His total liabilities at the end of 1896 were a little over \$18,000. He continued to lose money from the year of the plague up to the date of his filing his petition, when his liabilities were \$17,448.59. He accounted for the decrease in his liabilities, while at the same time he was making losses, by the higher price of goods. He went to his native country on December 4th last, eleven days before he signed his petition. He left his son in charge of the shop and four or five servants. Business was carried on as usual; no writ had been issued against him. He went away to collect debts and to repair the tombs of his father and grandfather. He did not know of his own knowledge what took place in his shop while he was away. He did not tell his brothers he was in difficulties and send them over to the shop to take charge. When he came back on December 15th he found the door of his shop closed, and his son told him he had filed a petition in the Bankruptcy Court the day previous.

By Mr. Wilkinson—He was the sole manager of the business, the partners he had mentioned being dormant partners. Up to 1894 there was a profit every year. He had carried his business on in the same way during the whole of the time he had been in business. His business was both retail and wholesale.

The son having also been examined, the public examination was adjourned until Thursday week at half-past ten.

Re TSOI ON.

Tsoi On, who formerly carried on business at 364, Queen's Road Central, as an exporter of goods, silks, &c., to California and Singapore, also came up for his public examination. He had been in business at the address given for about 11 years. The liabilities were set down at \$23,000 and the assets at \$24,000. Mr. Brutton represented creditors and Mr. Ewens was the debtor's solicitor. The examination was adjourned.

THE RUSSIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA.

The *Kobe Chronicle* publishes the following translation of telegraphic despatches appearing in the vernacular papers:—

Seoul, 17th March.

The Russian Minister has now replied to the answer of the Korean Government to the Note respecting the financial adviser and military instructors. Russia informs Korea that in lending advisers and military instructors, the intention was simply to show favour and good will, and Russia is glad to learn that Korea can now maintain her independence without this assistance. Such being the case, Russia will withdraw the advisers and instructors lent to Korea.

Seoul, 18th March.

M. Alexieff has returned the portfolio of his office to-day.

The Russian military instructors are preparing to leave Seoul for Port Arthur.

The salaries of the Russian officers in Korea for the unexpired term of their engagement, which altogether amounted to 33,000 yen, are reported to have been paid by the Korean Government on the 21st March.

MR. DE SPEYER RECALLED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Shanghai, 27th March.

Mr. de Speyer, the Russian Minister to Korea, has been recalled, his appointment having been cancelled.

[Mr. de Speyer has, for several months past been the Minister to Korea. Recently he made an offer to the Korean Government to withdraw the Russian financial adviser and military instructors, and the offer was accepted. Possibly his recall is due to dissatisfaction on the part of the Russian Foreign Office with his conduct in that matter.]

RUSSIA AT PORT ARTHUR.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE CHINESE.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DAILY PRESS.] Shanghai, 29th March.

Two thousand Russians are reported to have landed at Port Arthur.

The Chinese have withdrawn to Kinchow.

The Russians are controlling the telegraphs.

Colonel Wogack, the Russian Military Attache at Peking, and the Tientsin Agent of the Russo-Chinese Bank have gone to Port Arthur to arrange the finances for the garrison.

THE FLEET GOING NORTH.

An order has been issued for the British fleet at present in the harbour, to leave for the North. The order has naturally given rise to considerable speculation and all sorts of rumours have been afloat in the colony, but no one knows the real motive which has induced Admiral Seymour to give what appears to be alarming instructions. The Naval Yard was open on Sunday and the greatest activity prevails.

The *Edgar* and *Rainbow* left on the 29th and the torpedo-boat destroyers *Hart* and *Handy* on the 30th.

On the 31st H.M.S. *Centurion*, with Admiral Sir E. Seymour on board, the *Archer*, and the torpedo-boat destroyers, *Whiting* and *Fame*, left the harbour for the North. The *Immortalite* is likely to follow in a few days.

Shortly after eleven o'clock H.M.S. *Victorious* arrived from Singapore and the usual salutes were fired. The *Victorious* is a magnificent vessel and the finest in Far Eastern waters. She was built at Chatham. Her length is 390 feet and her breadth 75 feet, her displacement is 14,900, indicated horse power 12,000, and she draws 27 feet 6 in. of water. Her armour-plating is of Harveyised steel, 9 inches thick, extending along 216 feet of the middle of her length, and from 5 in. to 6 in. below the normal water-line to 9 feet 6 inches above it. The armament of the *Victorious* consists of four breech-loading 12-in. wire guns, twelve 6-in. quick-firing guns, sixteen 12-pounder quick-firing guns. The four fighting tops of the ship are each armed with three 3-pounder Hotchkiss guns, the shelter deck forward with two 12-pounder boat and field guns, and the boat deck and bridge with eight 45 Maxim guns. The ship is also fitted with four submerged tubes for 18-in. torpedoes, and one stern-tube above water. Her speed is 17½ knots and she carries 790 tons of coal.

On her arrival in the harbour divers made an inspection of the ship's bottom and on receiving their report the Naval authorities decided that there was no necessity for the vessel to dock. She is coaling and will leave either to-day or Monday.

THE FRENCH DEMANDS ON CHINA.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following version of the French demands on China, which in some respects differs from that telegraphed by Reuter:—

1.—An undertaking that the three Southern provinces, Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung shall not be alienated to any other Power.

2.—A lease of Kwangchau Bay (on the south coast of China, about 200 miles W.S.W. of Hongkong) on the same terms as those on which Germany has acquired Kiaochau Bay.

3.—The right to build a railway from Laokai (in Tonkin) to Yunnanfu.

4.—An undertaking that the head of the Imperial Chinese Post shall be a Frenchman.

IN HONOUR OF PRINCE HENRY.

GRAND BALL AT THE CITY HALL.

On Tuesday night, 29th March, the civil community of Hongkong gave a ball at the City Hall in honour of H. R. H. Prince Henry of Prussia. The whole of the building was set apart for the purposes of the function and nothing better in the way of brilliant decorations and illuminations could have been attempted. The building was converted into a magnificent palace of brightness and splendour; the excellence of the display equalled if it did not eclipse anything seen in connection with previous similar occasions, and the hundreds of people who were present, consisting of private residents and British and foreign naval and military representatives, will be slow to forget the beauty and gorgeousness of the whole scene.

The fountain, flanked by four lions, in front of the City Hall was a blaze of vari-coloured lights and it looked perfectly lovely. The central figure and the lions had been painted white, and amidst the soft diffusing rays of electric light the cold, marble-like figures stood out boldly and grandly. From each lion's mouth was strung a streamer of evergreens which reached to the head of the mermaid, and on each streamer prettily glittered numerous small electric lights which shot out like stars and disclosed to view various coloured flowers with which the streamers were studded. And then, in the shell cup which the mermaid supports, lay a globe of electric light which intensified the graceful beauty of the whole illumination. Immediately over the entrance to the building was the letter "H," which was enclosed in a naval design surmounted by a crown.

The interior of the building was almost dazzling in its brightness. The pillars on either side of the entrance hall were gracefully wrapped in strings of banyan leaves, and palms and other foliage were neatly disposed about the hall, and Welsback burners illumined everything around. The staircase was also profusely decorated with plants. On the first landing was the word "Willkommen" in letters of gold, over it was the Royal Standard, on the left was the British ensign, and on the right the German ensign. On the floor was an appropriate assortment of ship's gear, the sight of which must have pleased the sailor Prince. One of the articles was a buoy bearing the words "Prince Heinrich," and amongst other things were anchors, a compass, buoys, rope, &c., the sides being set off with a 7-pounder and smaller guns which peeped from a mass of beautiful plants. Surmounting the whole was a large crown, which was a very fine feature of the display. The crown was worked in the German colours and also in gold, and it was lighted by means of electric lamps which shone out with most striking brilliancy. The general decorations extended to the top of the staircase and were very effective and amply sufficient.

The ball rooms also presented an exceedingly pretty appearance. The St. George's and St. Andrew's Halls were used for the purposes of dancing, and each room was treated in a most tasteful manner, the prominent feature being the German colours, which entirely surrounded the walls. Flags and banners and various devices, together with a very judicious and pretty display of electric light, tended to make the entire surroundings picturesque in the extreme.

The drawing room was luxuriously fitted and nicely decorated, and the refreshment room was

also handsomely furnished and prettily set off with flags.

The theatre, where supper was served, was entirely changed from its usual aspect. The dress circle and the pit were utilized for the occasion, and flags, evergreens, paintings, and electric lights were used in the decoration of the place. The stage, where the leading table was placed, was exquisite in its appearance. The table was in the shape of a horse shoe, and in the semi-circle thus formed was placed a representation of the German eagle surrounded by beautiful plants. The stage was entirely arranged by Mr. Brough's staff and under Mr. Brough's personal supervision, and nothing could have been prettier than the result of his efforts. The stage was carpeted and the scene which was chosen was in happy harmony with the decorations. The whole of the interior of the building was very beautiful indeed, and whether one looked from the dress circle or from the stage the view was exceptionally fine.

It must be remembered that these magnificent decorations were carried out at very short notice and under somewhat disadvantageous circumstances, and so all those who took an active part in the work must be heartily congratulated upon the highly meritorious result of their labours. Monday morning was a particularly trying time. There was stacked in the halls an immense quantity of bunting belonging to H.M.S. *Edgar* and *Rainbow*, and just as preparations were being made to use it for decorative purposes a couple of Jack Tars hurried in and carried the whole of it away again as the ships had suddenly received orders to go North. But, thanks to energetic members of the Decoration Committee, there was plenty of bunting forthcoming from other sources, but the change in the first arrangements caused a rather serious delay. In carrying out the decorations the Dock Company and the naval and military services gave every assistance in their power.

Mr. E. W. Mitchell, the Hon. Secretary, deserves every praise for the excellent manner in which he carried out his arduous duties.

His Excellency the Acting Governor arrived a few minutes before nine o'clock and the Prince arrived shortly afterwards. His Royal Highness, who was wearing a short mess jacket without epaulettes, was received at the entrance by Sir John Carrington and the other members of the Reception Committee, and conducted to the St. George's Hall. The national anthem was played as His Royal Highness entered the room, and this over, dancing was immediately proceeded with, the first set of the opening lancers being composed as follows:—The Prince and Mrs. Black; the Acting Governor and Lady Carrington; Admiral Seymour and Mrs. Bell-Irving; Sir John Carrington and Mrs. Holland; Commodore Holland and Mrs. Von Loeper; Hon. C. P. Chater and Mrs. Wise; Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mrs. Jackson; Mr. T. Jackson and Mrs. May.

The following programme of music was supplied by the band of the King's Own Lancaster Regiment:—

- 1.—Lancers "Her Majesty's"
- 2.—Valse Du und Du
- 3.—Valse Dolores
- 4.—Polka See me Dance
- 5.—Valse Chantilly
- 6.—Lancers Gondoliers
- 7.—Valse Love's Old Sweet Song
- 8.—Washington Post
- 9.—Valse Memories
- 10.—Polka Bonne Bouche

SUPPER DANCES.

- 1.—Valse Moreska
- 2.—Valse Reverie
- 3.—Valse The Mikado
- 11.—Valse Les Serenes
- 12.—Lancers Duke of Fife
- 13.—Barn Dance Happy Darkies
- 14.—Valse A Maid of Kent
- 15.—Valse Thine Alone
- 16.—Valse Fantasie
- 17.—Polka Off We Go
18. { Valse and Toreador
- { Gallop Vivat

When supper was announced His Excellency the Acting Governor invited the Prince, as the ball was given in his honour, to lead the way

and to take the seat of honour at the supper table. His Royal Highness had Mrs. Black on his right, and was supported by the following ladies and gentlemen:—The Acting Governor and Lady Carrington, Admiral Seymour and Mrs. Bell-Irving, Sir John Carrington and Mrs. Holland, the Commodore and Mrs. Von Loeper, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mrs. Jackson, Hon. T. Sercombe Smith and Mrs. Wise, Hon. C. P. Chater and Mrs. May, and Mr. Von Loeper.

The catering was carried out by Messrs. Madar and Farmer, of the New Victoria Hotel, and as usual they were most careful in seeing that the arrangements for the supper were in every way satisfactory. The following was the menu:—

Hors D'Oeuvres.

Lobster Mayonnaise Chicken Mayonnaise
Ham Sandwiches Beef Sandwiches
Caviare Sandwiches Sardine Sandwiches
Boned Capon with truffles
Paté de Foie Gras in Aspic

Joints.

Baron of Beef Roast Saddle of Mutton
Roast Turkey and Ham
Boiled Shanghai Corned Beef

Game.

Game Pie Boar's Head
Roast Pheasant Quail Jelly
Tomatoes Celery Lettuce Watercress

Pastry.

Blanc-Mange Almond Macaroons
Mince Pies Finger Cakes
Chocolate Sponge Cakes

Dessert.

Vanilla Ice Cream Assorted Jelly
Maraschino Jelly Strawberry Ice Cream
Bons-Bons
Beef Tea Cocoa Coffee

Cheese.

Fruits.

The menu card was most artistically and appropriately illustrated by "H.W.B." At the head was the double eagle and a representation of H.M.S. *Centurion*, and on the left side was drawn the Prince's ship *Deutschland*, below which was a picture of a British and a German sailor smoking the pipe of peace.

During the supper His Excellency the Acting Governor proposed "The Queen" and "The Emperor of Germany," and the toasts were loyally and enthusiastically honoured. Then Sir John Carrington proposed "H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia." This toast created a tremendous outburst of popular feeling, and when Sir John mentioned that the sailor Prince had, during his stay in the colony, won the hearts of all with whom he had been brought into contact, the enthusiasm found vent in hearty cheers, and at the conclusion of Sir John's speech the whole audience rose and lustily sang "For he's a jolly good fellow." His Royal Highness, who spoke exceedingly well, returned thanks and then proposed the toast of "The community of Hongkong." He spoke with much earnestness and emphasis of the hospitality of the British residents here and concluded by asking his brother officers to give them three ringing cheers. The Prince, with a full glass of champagne in his right hand, led the cheering and then drank a bumper. His Excellency the Acting Governor made one of his characteristic speeches in reply, and the party shortly afterwards returned to the ball room. Dancing was kept up until two o'clock in the morning.

SPEECHES AT THE SUPPER.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR proposed "The Queen" and "the German Emperor," and both toasts were received with great cordiality, the band playing the National Anthem.

SIR JOHN CARRINGTON—Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen, I have the honour to invite you to drink the toast of the health of our distinguished guest, His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Prussia. (Applause.) When His Royal Highness came amongst us he came with a three-fold title to our respect. In the first place he is the son of the august lady who was formerly our Princess Royal. (Applause.) In the next place he is the grandson of our beloved sovereign Her Majesty the Queen Empress—(applause)—and lastly, he is a Prince of the reigning house of the great and friendly German nation, by whose illustrious sovereign he has been entrusted with an important command in the German Navy. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

But during his short stay amongst us His Royal Highness has shown that he has other claims to our esteem and regard—claims which are founded on his own personal merits. (Applause.) For it is the simple truth to say that His Royal Highness, by his frank and chivalrous bearing, by his courtesy and considerate manner, by his love of manly games and sports, and by other qualities characteristic of a true sailor Prince, has during his sojourn amongst us won the hearts of all with whom he has been brought into contact in this colony. (Loud applause and cheers.) I call upon you, therefore, to drink, with the greatest cordiality, and with the fullest honours the toast which I now propose to you, "The Health of His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Prussia."

The whole company rose and honoured the toast by singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA, in reply, said—Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen, pray believe me if I say that I am deeply grateful for the words Sir John Carrington has just expressed, and which I, personally, hardly deserve. At the same time, allow me to thank the civil community of Hongkong for this perfectly charming reception which you have offered me to-night. I also thank all of you for the hospitality shown to myself and to the officers of His Imperial Majesty's Navy during our stay in Hongkong. (Applause.) Hospitality is a quality which is known amongst all the Europeans in the East, but allow me to say it is nothing uncommon in a British colony and amongst loyal subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. (Hear, hear and applause.) I, therefore, may be allowed to propose the toast of the colony of Hongkong. (Hear, hear and applause.) In so doing, I request my fellow-officers to join with me in giving three hearty cheers for the welfare of this colony. (Loud Applause.)

The cheers were enthusiastically given.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, in responding, said—Your Royal Highness, I rise at somewhat short notice to express the thanks of the community which I have the honour, however feebly, of representing, to Your Royal Highness for the gracious words which you have just uttered. There is nothing that can further the true interests of Germany which can injure the interests of the United Kingdom. (Hear, hear and applause.) The Germans and the English are branches of the same stock; our languages spring from a common root, and I see no reason under Heaven why we should not be friends. (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) Therefore, on behalf of the whole nation, and on behalf of this community—which, although living under the British flag, still has amongst its inmates many men of your country—on behalf of that community I thank your Royal Highness and the officers of your squadron for the gracious way in which you have drunk to the health and prosperity of this colony. (Loud applause.)

The Prince and party then returned to the ball room.

The band of the Hongkong Regiment played the following programme of music during supper:—

- 1—March "King Cotton" ... Sousa.
- 2—Overture "Light Cavalry" ... Suppé.
- 3—Valse "Española" ... Waldteufel.
- 4—Song "Loreley" ... Nesvada.
- 5—Selection "Reminiscences of all Nations" ... Godfrey.
- 6—Barn Dance "Circus Girl" ... Caryll.

God Save the Queen.

The following is a list of the sub-committees:—

Invitation.—Commander Hastings, Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Mr. M. Grote, Mr. G. de Champeaux, Mr. G. Stewart, Mr. David Wood (Hon. Secretary).

Decoration.—Mr. R. Cooke, Mr. W. Wickham, Mr. H. P. Tooker, Mr. J. Ford, Mr. D. Macdonald, Mr. G. C. Anderson, Mr. W. Danby, Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. P. Brewitt.

Wine and Supper.—Mr. A. G. Wise, Mr. L. Suidter, Mr. C. Nicolle, Mr. J. M. Forbes, Mr. H. Bird, Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon.

Dance and Music.—Mr. D. Landale, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mr. A. Haupt, Mr. A. Schellhass.

Card and Smoking Room.—Mr. J. McKie, Mr. G. Murray Bain, Mr. J. H. Lewis.

Cloak Rooms.—Mr. D. R. Crawford, Mr. T. Hough.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. E. W. Mitchell.

WRECK OF THE P. & O. STEAMER "CHINA."

Mr. H. A. Ritchie, Superintendent of the P. and O. Company, writes us as follows:—

"I much regret to inform you that I have telegraphic advice to the effect that the R.M.S. *China*, from Australia, went ashore at Perim at 10.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24th March.

"The passengers have been landed safely and steamers have gone to her assistance.

"The R.M.S. *Cormondel*, which sailed from Hongkong on the 5th instant, connected with the *China* at Colombo, and a list of the through passengers from China and Japan is appended."

LIST OF PASSENGERS.

From Japan—Mr. V. Osborne, Captain N. P. Pollock, Mr. H. W. Commons, Mrs. H. Collbran, Miss Collbran, and Mrs. More.

From Shanghai—Mrs. Wade Gardner, 2 children and nurse, and Mr. C. Smith.

From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. C. Platt, infant and amah; Mr. J. Rundle, Mr. G. Rowe, Commander E. F. Donville, Mr. and Mrs. Gompertz, Sergt. Foord and family, Inspector Hennessy and family, Sergt. Hall and family, Inspector Mann and family, Inspector Butlin and wife, and Mr. Call.

Renter's telegram states that the vessel is full of water.

The *China* is one of the latest additions to the P. & O. Company's fleet and the wreck will represent a loss to the Company's insurance fund of probably something like £250,000. The local Insurance Offices will also be affected by the lines they had on the cargo. The *China* was a sister ship to the *Arabia*, *Egypt*, and *India*.

On 27th March we received the following communication from the Superintendent of the P. & O. Company:—

"With reference to my letter of yesterday's date respecting the stranding of the R.M.S. *China* at Perim, I have since received a telegram from our Agent at Aden, informing me that the passengers had all been transferred to the Company's steamer *Carthage*, all well, for Brindisi and London, and that the vessel was expected to leave Perim yesterday evening."

The Superintendent of the P. & O. Company informs us that the following telegram has been received from the Company's Superintendent at Bombay:—"Carthage left Perim evening of 27th March with all passengers mails specie and baggage ex *China*."

THE OUTBREAK OF BUBONIC PLAGUE.

At a confidential meeting of the Sanitary Board, held after the ordinary meeting on 24th March, Health Districts Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 6 of the City of Victoria were declared infected with bubonic plague, under the provisions of by-law 25, made under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. The eastern boundary of No. 2, Health District is Wanchai Market, the western boundary is Garden Road, and the southern boundary is Bowen Road. The eastern boundary of Nos. 4, 5, and 6 Health Districts is Pedder and Wyndham Streets and Glenealy Path, the western boundary is Tank Lane and Cleverly Street, and the Southern boundary is Caine Road.

The official return issued on 28th March gives the following figures:—

Number of cases reported up till noon of the 26th March ... 187
Number of cases reported during the past 24 hours ... 3

Total number of cases reported to date... 190
Number of deaths reported up till noon of the 26th March ... 160

Number of deaths reported during the past 24 hours ... 6

Total number of deaths recorded to date 166

WEEKLY ABSTRACT.

Week ended.	Cases.	Deaths.
1st January, 1898.	nil	nil
8th "	2	1
15th "	nil	nil
22nd "	2	2
29th "	2	4
5th February, "	5	3
12th "	5	5
19th "	9	6

26th	"	46	42
5th March,	"	22	17
12th	"	16	12
19th	"	31	28
26th	"	47	40

DAILY ABSTRACT.

		Cases	Deaths
27th March,	"	7	8
28th	"	3	2
29th	"	6	4
30th	"	7	5

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE AND SMALLPOX AT MACAO.

MEDICAL INSPECTION RECOMMENDED.

On Thursday afternoon a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held for the purpose of considering a report submitted to the members by Dr. J. M. Atkinson concerning the prevalence of the bubonic plague and smallpox at Macao, which place the doctor visited a few days ago. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. B. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Dr. Francis Clark (Acting Secretary and Medical Officer of Health).

The PRESIDENT remarked that they would see that the report they were called upon to consider dealt with the prevalence of the bubonic plague and smallpox at Macao, and he might add that he was informed that this letter must be considered confidential. He would call their attention to the condition which existed in 1895. In 1895 information was obtained of the existence of plague in Macao, and in consequence Dr. Lowson visited the colony and subsequently reported that the disease was and had been for two months prevalent in that colony. On the 23rd of April, ten days after this report was issued, His Excellency the Governor by proclamation prohibited the importation of Chinese from the port of Macao. The members had read the letter submitted to them and knew the statements it contained. If they had anything to say on the matter he thought they had better hear it.

Dr. CLARK read one paragraph from the letter as follows.—“For some months past small-pox and plague have been prevalent in Macao.”

The PRESIDENT—I think you, Dr. Clark, visited Macao some time ago?

Dr. CLARK—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—To obtain information with regard to plague?

Dr. CLARK—Yes.

The PRESIDENT—Have you the report which you sent to the Board?

Dr. CLARK said that in the report sent by him to the Board on May 25th, 1897, he said that on going over to Macao he first visited the Chinese Hospital and saw there 40 or 50 patients, none suffering from plague. He was informed that plague patients were at once removed to another Hospital across the river on Chinese territory. In this Hospital he found nine cases of plague. There were also two cases of smallpox—one convalescent—and half-a-dozen patients suffering from other diseases. On visiting the Chinese quarters and cemetery, he found in the latter place a considerable number of newly-made graves. He was inclined to think there were eight or nine cases of plague daily in the colony of Macao. Dr. Clark added that the information contained in this report was subsequently confirmed.

The PRESIDENT said that the curious thing about it was that while the plague was epidemic or practically raging in Macao in 1895 in Hongkong they were more or less free from it, and he certainly thought that the stoppage of the immigration of Chinese from Macao was one of the main causes of this.

Mr. EDE—In your report you say only two cases existed.

The PRESIDENT—I saw myself in one Hospital two cases of plague, but there were only 20 patients in that Hospital altogether.

Mr. EDE said he hardly thought they could

rely upon the statement of the Chinese doctor that he had visited 27 cases.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said why should not the statement of this Chinese Doctor be true? All Chinese are not liars.

Mr. EDE said what the President said was reliable.

The PRESIDENT said that first of all this Chinese doctor told him he had attended two cases a day. He told him he did not want mere statements he wanted facts, and asked him how many he had attended himself. He replied, “I can positively tell you I have seen one fresh case every two days since the Chinese new year.”

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said there might be 20 cases a day. They knew the slack way they did things at Macao. They had no house to house visitation.

The PRESIDENT said that if there were two cases a day that meant that there had been since the Chinese new year about 78 cases. He was informed that there were many more cases than that—that they would have to multiply that number by ten to get at the real number of cases. He should like to know how many health returns had been sent from Macao recently. A month or six weeks ago health returns were sent weekly from Macao. How many had been sent during the last six weeks? He noticed that they did not admit the existence of smallpox or plague. They simply grouped all such cases under the title “fever eruptive,” or as Dr. Lowson called them in 1895 “foul gas fever.”

Dr. CLARK said there was a return for the week ending 20th February, one for the week ending 27th February, one for the week ending 7th March, and another was dated March 13th. There had been nothing since. In the last return it was stated that there had been ten deaths from typhoid fever so-called.

The PRESIDENT—How many cases of eruptive fever?

Dr. CLARK—Three, and ten of typhoid.

The PRESIDENT—That is the first time typhoid has appeared?

Dr. CLARK—No, there was one case mentioned the previous week.

The PRESIDENT—How many the week before?

Dr. CLARK—Twelve eruptive fevers (*fevers eruptives*). They change the name. Sometimes they call it typhoid and sometimes eruptive fever.

Mr. EDE—Is it supposed we got the plague from Canton and Macao?

The PRESIDENT—I think it is very probable, but we cannot prove it. Most of the cases which occurred here are picked up in the streets. Answering Mr. Ede, Dr. CLARK said the majority of the cases were dead bodies.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—The Medical Officer says the majority of the cases are dead and picked up in the street, and you cannot trace anything about them.

Mr. EDE—I think that is owing to the fact that the Chinese are afraid of their houses being disinfected, and when they see that a man is affected they put him out into the street.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT—It would be impossible to find out how long the person affected had been in the colony. This epidemic of plague started about ten days or so after the Races, when there was a tremendous influx of Chinese.

Dr. CLARK—I certainly think that that was the start of it.

The PRESIDENT said they had a knowledge of the existence of the plague at Swatow at that time. Probably some cases were introduced from Swatow about the Chinese new year. He certainly thought it was their duty to recommend the Government to take every step to prevent the introduction of fresh cases of plague. If no one had anything more to say he would move that they recommend the Government to institute medical inspection of all Chinese from Macao either by Chinese vessels or steamers.

Mr. EDE—And Canton?

The PRESIDENT—No, we have no practical knowledge that the plague exists in Canton. If you think it necessary to include Canton, before that is done I think it would be advisable to send some one to Canton to ascertain the particulars.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—It will be necessary for us to advise the Government to declare Macao as a place where

bubonic plague prevails, in other words, to declare it an infected port.

Mr. EDE said that if they did not include Canton people could go down to Canton from Macao and then come to Hongkong.

The PRESIDENT—I move that the Sanitary Board advises the Government to proclaim the port of Macao a place at present infected with the bubonic plague, and that the Board recommends the Government to institute medical inspection of all Chinese arriving from Macao, but that we do not think the disease is sufficiently prevalent to recommend the stoppage of all immigration from Macao—simply medical inspection. There is a definite letter from the Consul at Canton saying there have only been about four cases of plague at Canton, and they were supposed to have been imported from Hongkong.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I beg to second.

The motion was passed unanimously and the Board then adjourned.

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS IN 1897.

The following is the calendar of probates and administrations granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong during 1897, exclusive of Chinese estates under \$1,000:—

Name of Testator or Intestate.	Value sworn under
William George Pearne	\$ 1,600
Li Shing	5,000
Subder Ali	300
Daniel Stephen Heaysman	400
Wu Wong	6,000
John Wallace	16,800
Dominico Musso	119,200
José Fillipe Tavares	280
Louis Grünauer	39,500
Tam Choi	1,350
Walter Chandler	200
Chan Sin Lin	5,000
Bonifacio Innocente d'Aquino	1,100
William Doran	250
Li Kam	2,500
William Ingram Stewart	100
Peter Foster
James Stewart
Peter McGregor	100
Yip Chun Shan	14,500
Augustus Rawlins Hudson	58,900
Marciano Antonio Baptista	1,900
Francisco Luis Roxas	5,010
William Brand	970
Johannes Petersen	1,200
William George Pearne	1,500
William Thompson	5,250
George Brown Lefavour	14,800
George Harper	41,000
Ho Ham	7,500
James Walker Knox	300
Ada Hayden	1,600
Norberto Joaquim Gomes	1,700
Joseph Player	375
Chan Yee	1,300
Alexander Stewart Harper
Cheang Chai alias Tsai Tung	14,500
Tang Man Hing	35,100
Graham Rome	1,100
Wong Wing Fat	4,000
Henry Joseph Dyer	7,020
Tang Chin Shing	3,300
Edward Lewis	2,250
Stella Kathleen App otherwise called Jeane Blood	16,000
Francisco Jonathan Murray	50
Mok Chai See	2,300
Lim Ah Khye	24,000
Manuel Reynolds	2,500
Majee Mirza Mahomed Ally
Tong A-Tow	5,000
Antonio Vicente Barrito	294,000
Ruttonbai Mehta	1,844
David Symington	150
Tse Kwai	2,800
Edward James Hagan	26,700
Mar'etta Carvalho	500
Ada Hayden	2,400
Ho Oi Chu alias Ho I Shek	5,000
Leung Shut Chi	6,000
Lee Awoon	8,000
C. F. Burdett	800
H. Metzler	300
Cheong Sau alias Cheong Assow	122,200
William Marsh Cooper	2,200
Kalla Singh	40
Marie Gabriel Simon Lajeat	100
James Painter McEwen	7,100

Emil Brunckow	17,300
Yü Shi	10,000
Alfred Parker	5,700
Jean Charles Victor Roque	2,000
John Martin Armstrong	12,210
Kwok Hun alias Kwok Tsz Ting	13,000
Cheong Sze	3,200
Hajee Mahomed Arab	5,900
Johann Heinrich Nicolaus Carl Gün- ther also known as John Henry Charles Günther	1,500
Claudio José da Silva	100
Mak Yun Chai	36,000
George Fenwick	90,800
Georg Theodor Siemssen	123,507
John Martin	4,700
Ip Tsoi Sing	4,300
Framji Cavusji Kika	500
Phoorja Mahomed Arab	7,000
Frederick Grant White	70,800
Leung Siu Tuen	1,500
Chan Ut Shang	3,000
Ma Shew	15,000
Lee Sew Mun	3,600
John Caldwell Melroes	1,900
Wong Kit	5,000
Aurelio Guilherme dos Remedios	5,500
Arthur Norman	200
James Henry Meyers	100
John Henderson	6,300
Gerald Slade	174,000
Leung Tun Woon	1,900
George Bean Macdonell	6,000
Pang Shu-fan	4,000
George Tauffer	200
Tang Yik Man	112,000
Lo Aing	3,200
Cheung A-Tai	2,700
David Kirkland Sliman	4,500
John Carter Jaques	2,000
Samuel Barff	9,000
Tam Sai Tong alias Tan Pau	50,500
Kaikhushroo Rustomjee Woonwalla	24,000
Henry St. John Browne	6,400
Lau Sai Lok	17,300
Thomas Campbell	27,300
Francisco de Paula Cembrano	94,000
Louis Haigh	3,200
Agathon Friedrich Woldemar Nissen	120,000

THE CUSTOMS REPORT ON THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA FOR 1897.

The report of Mr. F. E. Taylor, Statistical Secretary of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, has been issued. We give below the sections dealing with the trade in general, revenue, and the import and export trade:—

GENERAL.

The value of the Foreign trade of China during 1897 might fairly have been expected to compare unfavourably with the figures for 1896. The year opened with large stocks on hand, and import business was early hampered by a falling exchange. The temporary return of confidence, brought about by steadier rates during the early summer, was soon destroyed by the phenomenal decline which commenced in July and lasted till September, bringing severe losses upon native buyers and involving some of them in bankruptcy. The uneasiness caused by the startling political events in the North, combined with a scarcity of silver, partly due to the withdrawal of Japanese yen, and with the uncertainty of the course of exchange, practically put a stop to all import business during the autumn and winter months. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the value of imports was Hk. Tls. 238,631 higher than in 1896, and as the value of exports showed an increase of over 32 million taels, the total value of Foreign trade during 1897, aggregating Hk. Tls. 366,329,983, resulted in an excess of Hk. Tls. 32,658,568 over the figures for any preceding year—a most satisfactory proof of the sound basis upon which the Foreign commerce of China rests, and striking evidence of the expansion which will follow improved means of communication.

The returns contain statistics from Szumao on the Yunnan frontier, which was opened on the 2nd January, 1897, under the Gerard Supplementary Frontier Convention of 1895; but the trade, so far, has not been of importance. Statistics are also given of the trade at the new ports on the West River, Samshui and Wuchow, opened on the 5th June under the Special Article of the British Treaty of 4th February, 1897. Four ports of call on the West River were opened under the same

Article, at Kongmoon and Kumchuk, Shihing and Takhing, and although the trade at the last two is at present inconsiderable and is included in the Wuchow statistics, at Kongmoon and Kumchuk the business is already sufficiently important to deserve the separate statistics which are given, and which will no doubt be found of interest.

Manufacturing industries, as a natural consequence of the low exchange, show continued progress. Cotton mills and silk filatures are increasing in number and, in most cases, giving satisfactory results. Establishments for preserving the albumen and yolks of eggs are flourishing at Wuhu and Chinkiang, while Hankow has started a match factory, and Shanghai expects the new company which cleans feathers by machinery to have a successful career. The experiment of making tea by Indian methods, which was inaugurated at Foochow, is full of promise and is to be imitated at Hankow. There is every reason to believe that an era of industrial enterprise has commenced which will have far-reaching effects on the trade of this country.

REVENUE.

The collection of 1897 exceeded that of 1896 by Hk. Tls. 162,738, the total receipts aggregating Hk. Tls. 22,742,104, making the year the third best on record. This result was hardly to be expected in view of the difficulties with which trade had to contend during the greater part of the year, the effects of which are shown in a decrease of Hk. Tls. 104,609 in the import duties and Hk. Tls. 82,385 in the export duties. There was also a falling off in tonnage dues of Hk. Tls. 31,666. The gain in the total arises from increased receipts under opium duty and likin, coast trade duties, and transit dues. Foreign opium was responsible for but a small part of the increase under opium duties, but duties on the native drug increased from Hk. Tls. 505,684 to Hk. Tls. 647,666, a gain of Hk. Tls. 141,982. The continued advance in transit dues is noteworthy, due principally to the extension of the system in the South. The receipts under this head were Hk. Tls. 690,871, as against Hk. Tls. 617,067 during 1896.

FOREIGN TRADE.

In comparing the Foreign trade during 1897 with that of the preceding year, it must be remembered that the aggregate value of imports and exports during 1896 exceeded the total of any previous year. A further advance in the total value of the trade is to be recorded, but, as mentioned above, the improvement was principally due to exports. The total value of the trade was Hk. Tls. 366,329,983, which exceeds the figures for 1896 by Hk. Tls. 32,658,568. Considering how imports were checked by the low exchange, this result is very encouraging. Probably the most noticeable feature in the trade is the continued advance made by Japan, and it may be useful to call attention to the report of the Acting Commissioner at Shashi, who notes the exhibition there, at the Japanese Consulate, of samples of Japanese goods. Whether the adoption by Japan of a gold standard will assist this growing trade may be open to question, but the rapid strides which have marked the year under review is a significant fact when viewed in connexion with the difficulties the depreciation of silver has placed in the way of imports from Western nations.

IMPORTS.

The net value of the import trade exceeded that of all other years, being Hk. Tls. 202,828,625 as against Hk. Tls. 202,589,994 in 1896, which held the record. This result, in view of the difficulties with which importers had to contend, comes rather as a surprise. There was an increase of 287 piculs in the importation of opium, in spite of the depressing effects of low exchange and the increasing competition of the native drug, but the trade presented no features calling for remark. It may, however, be of interest to note that for some years past the sum spent on Foreign opium has fluctuated between quite narrow limits. Ten years ago, viz., in 1887, the value of the opium imported was Hk. Tls. 27,926,865, and the figure for 1897 stands at Hk. Tls. 27,901,056; but whereas in the former year the sum expended procured a supply of 74,350 piculs the almost identical amount in 1897 purchased only 49,217 piculs. The cost of the Foreign drug has increased since the closing of the Indian mints, and

the quality of the Native drug is said to be undergoing an improvement which brings it more into demand. Owing to these circumstances, this division of the Import trade does not keep its place in the general advance, for whereas in 1887 the value of the opium imported represented over 27 per cent. of the total value of the imports, in 1897 it represented less than 14 per cent.

It will be seen on reference to the table of imports that the trade in cotton piece goods shows, as was expected, a falling off from the figures for 1896. American goods, however, continue to increase in favour—drills showing an improvement of over 300,000 pieces, jeans of over 15,000 pieces, and sheetings of nearly 170,000 pieces,—but these are almost the only exceptions to the general decline. Shirtings of all kinds, except plain dyed, fell off. Drills, except American, show a heavy decrease, while jeans improved. Of sheetings, except American, less were imported by over half a million pieces. On the whole, the year, owing to fall in exchange and the heavy stocks carried over from 1896, was one of the worst on record for the piece goods trade. The favour which American goods find in the Chinese market is due to their cheapness. Freight rates from America are lower than from Europe, and the high prices which protection enables American manufacturers to obtain from consumers at home allow them to export the balance of their out turns and lay it down in this country at attractive rates. It is a strange result of protection that American manufacturers should be able to clothe the Chinese partly at the expense of their own countrymen. The importation of inferior qualities of plain goods seems likely to cease, the products of Chinese mills gradually taking their place. Even before the erection of local cotton mills an increasing importation of cotton yarn had shown that the people prefer a home-made article in the commoner grades, and of late years importations have contained a larger proportion of finer goods. This tendency is likely to become more marked in the future, and in connexion with this subject it is interesting to note that while the importation of English and Indian cotton yarn fell off in 1897, that of Japanese yarn was more than doubled.

All kinds of woollen piece goods, except lastings, show a decrease, while miscellaneous piece goods slightly improved.

The importation of metals show a marked decline, all classes of iron having fallen from 1,779,000 to 989,000 piculs, and mild steel from 161,430 to 11,768 piculs. Copper remained stationary, lead and tin slabs declined, while tinplates show an increase of 27,000 piculs.

With a decline in piece goods and metals, we have to look for increase in sundries to explain the satisfactory total of Foreign imports, and we are at once struck by the astonishing progress made in the importation of kerosene oil, the total increase for all kinds amounting to over 32 million gallons. American oil is finding vigorous rivals in Russian and especially Sumatran oil. To go back three years for purposes of comparison: in 1894 the figures were—American, 51,670,853 gallons; Russian, 17,500,283 gallons; Sumatran, 534,280 gallons; while in 1897 they were—American, 48,212,505 gallons; Russian, 36,924,125 gallons; and Sumatran, 14,212,278 gallons. The importation of raw cotton, a significant item, jumped from 99,129 piculs in 1896 to 160,256 piculs, and while European matches fell to about half the figure for the preceding year, Japanese matches rose from 7,793,000 to 8,974,000 gross. The diminution in the import of rice was due to splendid harvests. Sugars of all kinds show increases, which are also specially noticeable in the case of brass buttons, window glass, and umbrellas.

EXPORTS.—INTERESTING REMARKS ON THE TEA TRADE.

Low exchange is evidently causing a steady increase in the export trade, although the scarcity and consequent dearth of copper cash is believed by many to hamper the trade in no inconsiderable degree. In spite of a further falling off in the shipments of Tea, the value of the exports exceeded that of 1896 by over 32 million taels. The year 1895 held the record with a value of Hk. Tl. 143,293,311, but 1897 has beaten this easily and stands at Hk. Tls. 163,501,358, which nearly doubles the figure for 1887, although at that time our tables included

the exports from Formosa. It is satisfactory to note that the increase is not due to an exceptional demand for a particular article, and reference to the table of exports will show that almost every item, except tea, has shared in the expansion. It might be thought that the increased value could probably be explained by better prices obtained in consequence of low exchange, but it will be seen that quantities as well as values have increased. While black brick tea shows an increase of 3,512 piculs, every other kind of tea declined. Black tea fell from 912,417 to 764,915 piculs, green tea from 216,999 to 201,168 piculs. I am one of those who believe in the possibility of reviving this trade. It may not be generally known that the most delicate and highly prized teas from India and Ceylon are grown on the higher altitudes and are produced from plants of Chinese origin. The bulk of the tea exported from India comes from the plains, and is the product of the indigenous plant which grows as a forest tree in Manipur—attaining in its wild state a height of 30 feet—and which will not flourish except at low elevations. The teas made from the leaves of these plants yield a strong liquor, and they are consequently economical in use; but they are certainly unwholesome, and they lack altogether the delicious aroma of the teas grown at higher altitudes from Chinese plants. They can be placed on the market at low prices, because the tea estates are so large that the quantity of leaf to be dealt with makes the use of machinery profitable and even necessary. The essential difference between the process of manufacture in India and Ceylon and in China is that the teas are packed within 24 hours of the leaves having been plucked, which would seem to be impossible in this country under present conditions. It has been stated recently that the peculiar excellence of fine China teas would be ruined by the adoption of Indian methods. This may be true of fancy teas for exhibition, but is certainly not true if applied to ordinary fine teas. Not being an expert my opinion is of little value, but I may be permitted to say that I have been unable to procure in China tea of such delightful fragrance and digestibility as some I have tasted from Danjeeling and the Kangra Valley—grown from Chinese plants but manufactured by machinery. I believe that the experiment commenced at Foochow, and shortly to be imitated at Hankow, will, if sufficient leaf can be procured close to the factory, eventually result in a success which will encourage the adoption of similar methods in other centres of the tea industry and will regain for this important trade a large measure of its former prosperity.

It will be observed, on reference to the table giving the particulars of the direct exportation of tea to Foreign countries, that the shipments of tea to India, consisting almost entirely of green teas, fell from 46,737 to 11,441 piculs. These teas are not consumed in India, but are destined for Central Asia. From Bombay they are shipped to Karachi, whence they are carried by camel caravans, *via* Peshawar, Cabul, and Herat, to Bokhara, Samarkand, and other distributing centres. Another route is from Bombay to Bander Abbas in the Persian Gulf, and thence by caravan through Persia to Askabad, etc. The falling off in the shipments to Bombay may be partly ascribed to large stocks held over from last season, and to the disorganisation of trade brought about by the bubonic plague; but the chief cause is to be found in a diversion of the route by which they reach Central Asia, Batoum taking the place of Bombay as the port to which they are shipped directly from China. The development of this route is due to the opening of the Central Asian Railway, and for some time a considerable and increasing quantity of tea has been transhipped to Batoum *via* Port Said. By the old overland routes from Karachi and Bander Abbas there are many difficulties to be encountered, such as taxation when passing through Afghanistan or Persia, risk from robbers, expense of transport, and uncertainty as to the length of time occupied on the land journey. Moreover, owing to the dangers of the road, a sufficient number of merchants have to combine their caravans for mutual protection, and thus there is often delay before a start can be made. On the other hand, teas shipped direct to Batoum are brought at once into

communication with the railway and reach their final destination, or some place within easy reach of it, with security and despatch. It is said that of the small quantity of tea shipped to Bombay in 1897 a proportion was subsequently reshipped to Batoum, and that shippers are establishing agencies along the line of railway. The Russia Government is encouraging the adoption of this route and making a considerable reduction in the import duty levied on tea brought to Batoum in vessels flying the Russian flag.

A remarkable rise from 6,034 to 62,741 piculs will be remarked in the brick tea shipped to Great Britain. This was due to an interesting experiment which was tried with, I understand, promising results. Brick tea destined for Central Siberia was shipped from Hankow to London, where it was transhipped to steamers leaving about the end of June for the mouth of the Yenisei River, and was thence water borne to Krasnoyarsk, where it reached the Siberian Railway. The expenses by this route are said to be lower than those incurred by overland carriage, and, should the limited period during which the Kara Sea is open to navigation not prove a serious obstacle, we may expect to see a yearly increase in the shipments of brick tea to Great Britain.

Although the export of silk exceeded that of 1896, it did not compare favourably with 1895. A large crop was anticipated, but, owing perhaps to the worms having suffered during their early stages by a long spell of rainy weather, it fell short of expectations. Prices, in consequence, were pushed up rapidly, the demand from abroad justifying buyers in operating freely. The drop in exchange during the summer caused a further advance, the well-known "Gold Killing" chop obtaining the fine price of Tls. 470. Exporters did well in consequence of the low exchange and the good price obtained abroad. Stocks in hand are said to be very low, and prices are likely to rule during 1898. In the North the great demand for cocoons required by the filatures made buying difficult, owing to the high prices asked, and many filatures were unable to procure enough for their wants. Those filatures which sold their out-turn when exchange was low made handsome profits, but others suffered loss, seeing that the northern Chinese silk is intrinsically the finest in the world, it is disappointing to learn that little or no improvement in the reeling has taken place, and that a trade which should be an increasing source of wealth to the people is gradually being diverted to other channels in consequence of defective reeling and adulteration. Owing to these causes, and to heavy internal taxation, the silk trade of China, unless a change is made, will feel more and more severely the competition of Japan, where the silk, although of an inferior quality, is so carefully cultivated and handled that it finds an annually increasing sale. These remarks apply to the silk which is reeled by native methods, and more especially to the silks of Northern China. In the Canton district certain improvement is visible, and it is gratifying to notice that the export of steam filature silk increased from 27,041 to 41,485 piculs, which makes it evident that the salvation of the trade—given a more intelligent cultivation of the worms and a result-improvement in the cocoons—must be looked for in this direction.

The increase in the export of beans and bean-cake was due to the demand from Japan. Fans and feathers were exported in larger quantities, and rush hats rose from 2,236,500 to 4,359,578 pieces. Hides rose from 158,367 to 216,525 piculs, and this is a trade which is of growing importance. The export of mats was more than doubled. Nutgalls, oils, skins, brown sugar, and vegetable tallow all show progress. The increase in the export of tobacco leaf is especially noticeable, rising from 104,761 to 141,877 piculs. Wool improved, but did not reach the total for 1895.

The Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Limited, will recommend at the annual general meeting, to be held on the 6th of April, the payment of a final dividend of 25 shillings per share, making, with the interim dividend paid in July, a total of £2 per share, yielding to Shanghai shareholders the sum of Tls. 15.70 per share for the year.

VICTORIA ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

SPEECH BY SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.

The City Hall was crowded on Friday afternoon, 25th March, on the occasion of the annual prize distribution in connection with the Victoria English Schools. Sir John Carrington, wearing his robes, was in attendance, having kindly consented to hand the awards to the successful pupils. There were also present the Hon. E. R. Belilios, the Rev. G. J. Williams, Mr. W. D. Braidwood (headmaster), and Mr. J. Livingstone (assistant master). At the outset a short programme of songs, &c., was gone through by the scholars, who were conducted by Mrs. Braidwood, Miss Yvanovitch presiding at the piano. The programme included the following items:—Chorus, "Holiday Duet," Class; piano-forte duet, "Silvery Waves," Misses Tregillus and Silas; vocal duet, "We are wandering o'er the mountains," Misses Seth, de la Concha, Yvanovitch, Rodger, Lewis and Joseph; chorus, "The Nightingale," Class; pianoforte duet, "Gaieté de Cœur," Misses E. Lewis and A. de la Concha; nursery rhymes, Class; darkies' lullaby, Class. The "Darkies' Lullaby" was especially well appreciated and a portion of it had to be repeated.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD read the following report:—Sir John Carrington, ladies and gentlemen:—I have the honour to lay before you the annual report of the Victoria English Schools for the year ending 31st December, 1897. The number of pupils enrolled during the year was 219. The average attendance during the year was 122.64. At the annual Government examination in December 101 pupils were presented, viz:—69 boys and 32 girls. In the Girls' School all passed and in the Boys' School 94 per cent. In reading, copy-writing, elementary science, and book-keeping 100 per cent. passed; arithmetic, grammar, and geography 98.5; euclid 88; algebra 75. The results in history and physical geography were not so satisfactory. In the latter subject the papers were more difficult than usual. These remarks refer to the Boys' School only. Sixteen pupils presented themselves for the Oxford Local Examination. Of these ten were successful, three boys and seven girls, viz:—2 senior, 6 junior and 2 preliminary. Miss S. Mehta was distinguished in Scripture. The local branch of the Navy League offered two prizes of \$20 each for essays on "The Command of the Sea," and "The Use of the British Navy." These prizes were awarded to D. Belilios and H. Naphtali respectively. We tender our best thanks to the Navy League and its hon. secretary for their endeavours to kindle a spirit of patriotism among the children.

The library has been a source of great pleasure to the pupils, but more books are required and we shall be very grateful if our friends will assist to provide them. Drill has been carried on during the year and many of our pupils have been enrolled in the local Volunteer Corps.

The physical welfare of the children has been carefully considered. The boys have their cricket and football clubs and the girls a lawn tennis club.

Our heartiest thanks are due to the following gentlemen for kindly contributing to the prize fund:—Sir J. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., Rev. G. J. Williams, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, A. G. Romano, D. Warren Smith, D. Gillies, G. C. Anderson, Granville Sharp, H. M. Mehta, J. M. Basa, P. Jordan, R. Mitchell.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, having distributed the prizes, said—Mr. Williams, Mr. Braidwood, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. It is now my privilege, and in a certain sense my duty also, to make a few remarks to you with regard to the interesting occasion that has called us together. I am quite sure it is an interesting occasion to all of you who are here, because you must have been pleased to see the evidences of careful training on the part of the masters and mistresses of these schools and the very pleasing appearance of the boys and especially of the girls. (Applause.) This is the first time I have had the pleasure of coming into contact with the Victoria English Schools, but I hope it will not be the last time. (Hear, hear.) I propose to say a few words to you first with regard to the schools and their history during the past year, and then to address a few words of kindly counsel and comfort to the boys and

girls who are taught at the schools. With regard to the schools generally, it appears from the report which has been read by Mr. Braidwood that the past year has been on the whole a very satisfactory one. I find that at the Government examination in December last 161 pupils were presented—that is to say 69 boys and 32 girls. Out of the candidates presented 94 per cent. of the boys passed, but the girls did still better, the whole of them passing. (Applause.) It is satisfactory to see that in the important subjects of reading, copy-writing elementary science, and book-keeping the whole of the candidates passed. (Applause.) In arithmetic, grammar, and geography 98 per cent., or nearly the whole, passed. (Applause.) In connection with the important Oxford local examination these schools sent up a very fair percentage of scholars, and out of 16 presented ten were successful. (Hear, hear.) These 16 were made up as follows: boys seven and girls nine. Of the seven boys three passed and of the nine girls seven passed. (Applause.) You will see there that the girls did distinctly better than the boys, and furthermore, Miss Mehta was distinguished in Scripture. That, I think, is the only distinction gained by these schools at that examination, and that is a very creditable thing for Miss S. Mehta to have done. I hope she will repeat and enlarge her successes in subsequent years. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Belilios and Mr. Naphtali were the lucky winners of the prizes given by the Navy League in order to infuse a spirit of patriotism among the scholars of these schools. (Hear, hear.) I am glad to see from the report that the boys, and I presume the girls also, are drilled by a competent instructor. It gives the Commandant of the Volunteer Corps great pleasure to see that the schools form a good recruiting ground for the volunteer corps. (Hear, hear.) You will see the result of teaching them drill in school is that they like to keep up their drill as young men and join that force which I really believe is useful in the colony—the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. (Applause.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, so much with regard to the school generally. I think Mr. Williams and Mr. Braidwood may rest satisfied that the schools have done good work in the past year, and I hope they will continue to do good work in the future. I was very much interested to see the class of boys and girls taught at these schools. I should imagine, with regard to the girls at any rate, that there are not many means elsewhere of their gaining so efficient an education as they have gained at these schools. With regard to the superiority—as it indeed is—of the girls as compared with the boys in these schools, one may make a few remarks on the subject of female education. I have not seen many decades, but still I have seen quite enough to recollect that during the earlier of those decades female education was a thing of scraps and shreds. Female education was carried out in a very perfunctory and incomplete manner. But now in various departments of learning women equal and rival men. You boys must not allow the girls to take away from you the intellectual superiority which the men have held for so long. (Hear, hear.) I do not say that for one moment by way of jealousy of the women. Far from it. I am exceedingly glad to see that women now have the means of acquiring so much higher and better education than in times past, but at the same time while we are glad to welcome the girls on the same plain with us we must not let them get on to a higher plain, and I do hope that next year the boys will not allow this state of things to be repeated. (Hear, hear.) You must by all means be at least the equals of the girls. Let the girls excel; but you must excel also. (Hear, hear.) Now with regard to the boys and girls generally of course I do not propose to read a sermon to you, you would not thank me if I did, but at the same time my past experience tells me that on these occasions it is expected of the older person who addresses the girls and boys that he will offer them some counsel and advice which may be of use to them in their school days and possibly in their after life. It is a somewhat delicate subject to deal with, because of course if you put it on too high a level, so to speak, you go over the heads of the children and if you use language of too homely a character you

seem to the audience other than the children to speak idly. It is somewhat difficult to hit the mean in these matters. However, I will do the best I can. You see as regards the school that the report consists of a statement as to what has been done during the past year. As regards the individual scholars I think this is an opportunity for them to look back on the past year in regard to their individual acts and see what they have done. It appears that a great many of them have done well, but still I think all of them cannot have done well. There must have been, I suppose, some idle and careless girls, and I am quite sure there have been some idle and careless boys. I put it to you boys and girls who have been in that plight to mend your ways during the coming year. Remember the great importance of forming good habits at school. Remember the very great value of making the most of teaching given you at the school by acquiring habits of industry and patience, and steadiness with regard to your lessons. Of course children are not all born alike. Some are born what is called clever and some what is called dull or slow. I should like to tell you my experience has been that it is very often the dull or slow child who gets the better of the clever child both at school and in after life, and the reason is that the clever child is too apt to rely upon his cleverness and not to give that earnest application to its studies that is necessary if excellence is to be attained, whereas the dull or slow child realises that he must make an effort and is generally inclined perhaps to be more steady and industrious than the clever child. I ask you who are clever to acquire the habit of steadiness and industry, and this habit added to your cleverness will enable you to excel. Remember that you are forming whilst at school habits which will abide with you during your after life. If now you are careless, idle, inattentive, heed not what your teacher says to you, depend upon it those habits will stick to you in after life and interfere with your usefulness and advancement in life. That is so true that it is almost unnecessary for me to dwell upon it. I must confess that the more one looks back upon this period of childhood the more one wishes the children to realize that it is the time of brightness and happiness, and wishes our young people to get the full measure of brightness and happiness from it. I have the greatest sympathy with the children, and I only wish they could realize what a time of happiness and blessedness the early portion of their life is. The poet said—

"Oh, talk not to me of a name great in story;
The days of our youth are the days of our glory,
And the myrtle and ivy of sweet two and twenty
Are worth all your laurels, though ever so plenty."

That is very true. It is a great satisfaction to be able to look back upon your childhood days and think you have spent them well and to the best advantage, that you got from them that happiness, that very highest happiness, which a kind providence destined you to receive during that period of time. I think I should like to impress upon the girls and boys one or two other things. These are the very great value of cultivating a kind, courteous manner in regard to your fellow pupils and in regard to your teachers, and in regard to your brothers and sisters and others at home. I believe myself, so far as my observation goes, that a great deal of the happiness of life arises from self-sacrifice and consideration for others. (Hear, hear.) I think, girls and boys, you will always find that to be true. It is especially the lot of girls and of women to be self-sacrificing and to surrender their rights and privileges in favour of others, and that is why girls and women are such blessed parts of Creation. I am afraid they carry that self-sacrifice and kindness sometimes to the extent of spoiling us men. I am afraid we are more or less selfish—at least we are often told so—and I am afraid the tendency of modern times is not to lessen that particular failing. We all live so fast, the time goes so quickly, that we look more and more to ourselves and less to those around us. That is a thing we ought to fight against and endeavour to resist as far as we can, and we look therefore to the younger generation to endeavour to form those habits of self sacrifice which will bring them happiness both at the time and afterwards. Let me conclude by ex-

pressing my thanks to Mr. Williams for kindly asking me to come here this afternoon to perform the pleasant function of giving these prizes and also to express my sincere wishes for the welfare of these schools. I am quite sure you all feel more or less interested in these schools by virtue of your being present, and I hope you will join with me in expressing the very sincere wish that they will continue to prosper and turn out scholars who will make good and useful men and women in this colony and who will become citizens of whom the colony will be proud. (Loud applause.)

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have listened with much pleasure—as I am sure all present have listened—to the remarks made by his Honour the Chief Justice, and I hope the pupils will lay to heart what he has said. We are all very much indebted to Sir John Carrington for presiding on this occasion and thus giving us the cheerful light of his presence. Those engaged in the work of education in this colony, whether they be employed by the Government or engaged in private establishments, require a little encouragement, and I am very glad to see the Chief Justice so ready to give that encouragement and advice. The scholars, too, feel when they are commended by so high an authority, an incentive to fresh exertions to cut a still worthier figure at the next examination. I hope frequently to meet his Honour on such occasions in the future, and I am confident he will find the time devoted to the interests of education has not been wasted. With so great a pressure on his time and attention it is most kind and considerate on his part to devote some of it to matters unconnected with the most important department over which his Honour so ably presides. With these remarks I beg to move a hearty vote of thanks to the Chief Justice for presiding at this meeting and I ask you to show your approval by acclamation.

The request was heartily responded to as also was the request of the schoolmaster for three cheers for Sir John Carrington.

The following was the prize list:—

Oxford University Local Examination.—Senior, A.A.—Serene Mehta, (distinguished in Scripture), Augusta Souza.

Juniors.—Annie Baker, Mary Rodger, Isa Henderson; Joseph Joseph, Eneas d'Aquino, J. H. Ruttonjee.

Preliminary.—Mozelle Marcus, Augusta Ivanovich.

Navy League Essay.—'Command of the sea'—H. Naphtali; 'Use of the British Navy.' D. Belilios.

BOYS' SCHOOL.

Standard Ex VII. Class Prizes.—H. Rapp, Math. and Composition; R. Basa, Geog. and Mapping.

Standard VII.—J. H. Ruttonjee, History and Grammar; A. Seedin, Math; D. Belilios, Mapping and Painting.

Standard VI.—P. Basa, Reading; F. Rapp, Mathematics; C. Alves, Geography; A. Lopes, Composition.

Standard V.—L. Zialcita, General Excellence; S. Tsuchiya, Arithmetic; F. M. da Silva, Mapping; S. Rotea, Reading.

Standard IV.—P. Kohn, Reading; M. Abraham, Arithmetic; G. Mackie, Writing.

Standard III.—A. Ribeiro, Arithmetic; J. Casimero, Reading; F. Ortega, Writing.

Standard II.—Julio Botelho, Arithmetic; Y. Kunisaki, Writing; P. Komar, Reading.

Standard I.—G. Klinck, Reading; F. Marti, Writing; G. Komar, Arithmetic.

Special Prize.—M. Abdullah, Painting.

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Standard VII.—Mary Rodger, Geog., Phys. Geog. and Gen. Proficiency; Serene Mehta, History, Composition and Gen. Proficiency; Mable Seth, Needle Work, French and Drawing; Rosario Basa, Arithmetic; Annie Baker, Good Conduct and Gen. Proficiency; Maria Xavier and Augusta Yvanovich, Drawing.

Standard VI.—Mozelle Marcus, Geog. and History; H. Schmidt, Composition; Rose Mackenzie, Arith., Writing and Drawing.

Standard V.—Eva Lewis, Comp., Reading and Geog.; Carmen Botelho, Needle-Work; Helena Yvanovich Arith. and Algebra.

Standard IV.—Lily Tregillus, Dictation; A. Carvalho, Needle work; Rachel Silas, Geography; E. Pereira, Arithmetic.

Standard III.—Maggie Peterson.
Standard II.—Florence Silas.
Standard I.—A. Loureiro.
Special Prize for History.—Serene Mehta.

THE WAI SING LOTTERY.

PROSECUTION IN HONGKONG.

At the Police Court on the 29th March, before Commander Hastings, the following were charged with keeping a gaming house for the purpose of a lottery at 97, Bonham Strand, on the 23rd of February:—Pun Fu, Tang Sui, Lam Tak, Chan Shu, Chan Ki, and Leung Yik. Mr. Dennys (Crown solicitor) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defendants.

Mr. Dennys, at the outset, called attention to the ordinance under which the charge had been preferred, remarking that unless they considered the words of the ordinance it was very difficult to understand why the charge has been laid in the way it had. The word "keeper" was defined as "any person who shall and in any manner assist in conducting the business of any such place," and he expected to be able to prove to his Worship that the six defendants were assisting in conducting the business of this house. A gaming house was defined as meaning and "including any place opened, kept, or used for the purpose of a lottery or otherwise," and it was stated "a place shall be deemed to be kept for the purpose of a lottery if tickets are sold, prepared, or distributed there." The lottery they had to deal with was known as the Wai Sing lottery, and it was a device whereby money was distributed in a manner determined by the result of a contest for academical degrees in a public competitive examination in China. The words "Wai Sing" explained to a great extent the meaning of the lottery. They meant "grouping surnames." The person who succeeded in grouping together the largest number of surnames, being those of the successful candidates at the examinations, was the person who won the lottery. The prizes payable were distributed in sums of 60 per cent., 30 per cent., and 10 per cent. of the value of the tickets applied for, a commission of 10 or 15 per cent. being charged by the establishment which got up the lottery. He was not contending that 97, Bonham Strand, was the establishment which got up this lottery. That establishment would be shown to be in Macao, where the Wai Sing lottery was a licensed institution, but what he said about 97, Bonham Strand, was that it was an agency, and that it came under the definition of a "place." He thought his Worship, after hearing the evidence, would come to the conclusion that at 97, Bonham Strand, on the 23rd of February, and probably for a long time past, there had been established an agency for the Wai Sing lottery—that from that house a man or men were sent round to collect what might be called the stakes from people who took tickets in the lottery. These stakes consisted simply of pieces of paper on which were written with reference to some examinations 20 names and with reference to others 16 names, there being 16 names in this particular case. These 16 names were written on a piece of paper and put into an envelope which was called for by a man from 97, Bonham Strand, who took it to that address. The contents were then taken out and sent over to Macao to the head establishment. The head establishment got this list of names and printed it in a book when they had one thousand tickets of the same value with regard to the same examination applied for. That was to say, supposing a man bought a one dollar ticket. He wrote the names down on a piece of paper, which was taken to 97, Bonham Strand. From there it was sent to Macao, and at Macao, when they had got a thousand of these pieces of paper with surnames on them they printed them into a book, each lot of surnames chosen being in a separate column. There were a thousand of these columns in each book, and each of these columns was headed by a certain character. When these books had been printed, copies were sent to 97, Bonham Strand, and there tickets and books were "distributed," to use the word of the ordinance. These tickets did not contain on the face of them the names of the scholars who had been chosen by the person laying the stake, but

each contained what they might call numbers, that is to say a Chinese character from the thousand character classic denoting the book and another Chinese character from the same classic denoting the column of the book containing the surnames upon which the purchaser of the ticket had staked. After the examination a list of the successful candidates was published and, according to his instructions, the money was paid at the head-quarters at Macao. With regard to the facts of the case, on the 23rd February Inspector Hansen and a number of other officers went to 97, Bonham Strand. The ground floor was occupied as a druggist's shop and the first floor was used as a store-room in connection with the same. On this floor were found three—the fourth, fifth, and sixth—defendants. The fourth defendant was sitting at a table on which were 77 Chinese envelopes, and in these envelopes were Wai Sing lottery tickets representing subscriptions to the amount of \$403. The fifth defendant was sitting on a bed from which he got up as the police entered, and upon this bed were a number of envelopes and papers which, as his Worship would see, were connected with the Wai Sing lottery. The sixth defendant was standing by a bed on which were laid a large quantity of envelopes containing Wai Sing papers. There were also some tickets and a number of other papers. Apparently at the time the police entered the house there was nothing on the first floor except a locked up room containing druggist's stores and these three defendants, who had in their possession a large quantity of Wai Sing papers of different kinds. On the second floor were the second and third defendants. On that floor were two rooms, one in front of the house and one at the back. The second defendant was in the back room and was holding in his hand a slip of paper on which was written apparently a request to alter a stake which had been made, and following this request to alter the stake it was written that the stake could not be altered—it was too late, that the books were being printed, or something of that sort. In the front room was the third defendant with his hands over a large number of envelopes. Sixty-five of these envelopes contained 157 Wai Sing tickets. On the third floor the first defendant was lying on a bed. He was the man who went round to collect the orders for the tickets, and in this particular case he went to a house in Jubilee Street and collected a number of tickets. From there he went to two or three other houses, and was subsequently followed to 97, Bonham Strand. As a matter of fact in the whole place there were found 1,296 tickets—Wai Sing lottery tickets which would cost the purchasers \$2,362.50.

Inspector Hansen said that on the 23rd Feb., at about 1-40, he went to 97, Bonham Strand, in pursuance of the warrant produced. He was accompanied by Inspector Moffat, Sergeants Gidley and Collett, Constable Faherty, and three Chinese constables, 265, 291, and 284. The ground floor was occupied as a Chinese druggist's shop. He went straight upstairs to the second floor, passing the first floor, Inspector Moffat accompanying him. There were two rooms on the second floor, one in front and one at the back. In the front room were three beds, two with mosquito curtains and one without. There were also some trunks, a few stools, and one table. The third defendant was in this room and sat on a stool by the bed which had no curtain. His hands were on the bed, and by his hands were spread out a line of Chinese envelopes (produced). They were 65 in number. Inside 57 of these envelopes were 153 Wai Sing lottery tickets bearing the heading Fu Yi Kwai. The other eight envelopes contained similar tickets bearing the heading Ming Lee Chau. He took possession of these. He then put his hand into defendant's pockets and took out the tin box produced in which was a wooden chop containing in red the characters O Mun Fu Yi Kwai, (O Mun meaning Macao). He left the defendant in charge of P.C. 265 so that he might look round the room, and as soon as his back was turned the constable called out, "He is putting something away, Inspector." Witness then found behind the defendant on the bed eight slips of paper each of which contained 16 Chinese surnames, with the words two dollars or three dollars and a Chinese name at the bottom. At the same time he found the 16 circulars pro-

duced. On the bed close to the defendant was also the book produced. Defendant claimed a box standing by the side of the bed, and on opening it witness took out the parcel produced. The parcel contained circulars quoting the value of tickets, and referred to the examination in question. Upon one of the curtains beds at the opposite side of the door from the defendant he found the bundle produced containing two books, one containing the list of successful candidates at the various examinations, a black envelope, and another envelope, six tickets and other documents referring to the lottery. The basket produced he found under three trunks which stood at the end of one of the beds. The trunks stood on a stool and the basket was under the stool. The basket contained a Wai Sing book,—that was a book containing a thousand columns, each column being headed by a particular character. He also took possession of a box containing money.

In reply to Mr. Francis, the witness said he was in plain clothes when he went to the house in question, and he believed he was wearing his ordinary boots. He went up the stairs about two steps at a time and as noiselessly as possible. He thought he took the man in the room by surprise. He did not know anything about this defendant.

At this point the case was adjourned.

The hearing was resumed on the 31st, when Commander Hastings fined three of the prisoners \$500 dollars each, or six months' hard labour, the other three being discharged.

HOW THE PORTUGUESE BECAME THE PIONEERS OF DISCOVERY.

BY F. A. CORDEIRO.

With the exception of the two Poles, which still defy all attempts to explore their secrets, the world has been so completely laid open that the work of discovery may be said to have now been brought to a close. The movement that gradually led to this result in the nineteenth century began in the fifteenth, and the impulse to it was imparted by the Portuguese. How Portugal, one of the smallest countries of Europe, ever became the pioneer in the work of laying open the world, has puzzled many writers. Among the explanations given by them the most extraordinary is the explanation that in the fifteenth century the Portuguese were, as a race, superior to any other in Europe. We know that never at any period did the Portuguese excel the rest of the Europeans in science, literature, and arts. In what, then, consisted that superiority? That is the question, the answer to which these writers do not supply. Another explanation, perhaps no less extraordinary, is that the Portuguese were indebted to the interposition of a kind providence. The truth is that a combination of circumstances enabled that people to make those great undertakings that resulted, directly, in the doubling of the Cape of Good Hope and the discovery of the sea-route to India, and, indirectly, in the discovery of America and the circumnavigation of the globe; to make those memorable voyages, discoveries, and conquests that carried their name to the farthest parts of the earth.

Portugal was a maritime country. Living on the shores of an apparently boundless ocean, the Portuguese must ever have had present to their minds some thought or other of exploring it. But there long prevailed in Europe a notion, handed down by tradition, that if any one were to venture forth on the ocean, he would, at a certain distance from the land, fall over its side and would thus never return. On the supposition that the Portuguese early formed some project for enlarging the bounds of the known world by undertaking voyages of discovery by sea, that and similar notions must have hindered them from carrying into effect any such project. These absurdities accounted for the lateness of the work of discovery. They were gradually dispelled by the progress of knowledge, and in the beginning of the fifteenth century were more or less discredited.

Close neighbours of Africa, which, excepting the part bordering on the Mediterranean, was altogether unknown to the Europeans, the Portuguese long desired to learn something about it, and—having read in the works of Hero-

dotus that the Phœnicians circumnavigated it in the time of Meho, king of Egypt—to emulate the ancients.

After a struggle of centuries they had succeeded in rolling the Mohammedans back on Africa, and had followed them thither. It was while fighting their late oppressors on the northern fringe of that vast continent that the Portuguese were allured by the quantity of gold which was seen there, and which was brought from the interior. Thenceforth, to find out the place whence the gold came occupied the attention of the Portuguese.

From a remote antiquity the commodities of the East had been much sought after in Europe. The trade in them had enriched many ancient states, and had later been the source of the prosperity of Venice, Genoa, Pisa. To discover a sea route to India whereby they might wrest that trade from the hands of the Italians was the object the Portuguese constantly had in view.

But at a time when the art of navigation was yet in its infancy stronger motives than mere curiosity or mere love of gain were required to urge men to undertake long voyages by sea. Fortunately these motives were supplied by religious zeal and martial spirit.

In the middle ages, zeal for religion and love of war were the characteristics of the European nations. Those feelings were heightened during, and in the centuries subsequent to, the struggles between the followers of Christ and the followers of Mohammed. In the case of the Portuguese and the Spanish these struggles were carried on in the Peninsula, began early, ended late, and were continuous. While the rest of the Europeans were employing their martial spirit against each other, the Portuguese, after subjugating the Moors, looked about for peoples to conquer and to convert, and very naturally turned their attention, first of all, to the races settled in Africa.

Finally, Portugal was the only nation of Europe that did not engage in the constant wars carried on among the rest. Her one European foe was Spain, a foe over whom she often triumphed. She, therefore, had leisure to think of projects of discovery.

Thus, the Portuguese were, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, prepared to enter on the work of discovery. To enable them to begin it in earnest one thing alone was needed—a leader to guide their efforts. Fortunately such a leader appeared just in time in the person of Prince Henry. The Prince was born March 4, 1394. Scion of Royalty, he received an education befitting his birth. With the eye of genius

The Lusitanian Prince who, Heaven-inspired, To love of useful glory roused mankind, saw that the time had come for carrying out the design of breaking the barriers within which the ambition of man had hitherto been confined. In order to thoroughly execute his work he retired to Sagres, near Cape St. Vincent, where, in the midst of a pleasing solitude, he devoted himself to the study of mathematics. The first expeditions of the Portuguese were equipped by him. They were not productive of great results at first, but the movement of discovery had begun, a movement that continued to our times.

Such then were some of the principal circumstances that led a small European kingdom to lay open an ocean-route from West to East and to discover so many hitherto unknown countries. With wonder and admiration Europe looked on the efforts and sacrifices made, on the difficulties encountered and surmounted by the enterprising Portuguese. Their achievements form the theme of one of the noblest poems of the world. In strains breathing intense patriotism, Camões sings the deeds of his countrymen:—

* The deeds of arms and barons of renown,
Who from the Western Lusitanian coast
Through seas that never had been sailed before
Passed e'en beyond the Trapobana land,
Mighty and brave in perils and in wars
Beyond what human strength had made us hope,
And midst the races distant and remote
An empire reared which they so splendid made;
Also, the glorious memories of those kings,
Who went forth the Dominion and the Faith
To spread, and devastation made in lands
Corrupt of Asia and of Africa;

* The writer has been bold enough to make the above translation in blank verse.

And those who have by many a valorous act
Their names for ever freed from bond of death;
I will in song proclaim to every part
If art and genius should accord me aid.

Cease now to vaunt the navigations great
The Trojan and the Grecian wise achieved;
No longer spread the fame of victories
By Alexander and by Trajan gained;
I sing of the illustrious Lusian power
Which the gods Mars and Neptune did obey;
Cease all the Ancient Muse so long has sung;
Another, nobler valour rises now.

A voluminous literature on the above theme is expected in connection with the forthcoming commemoration of De Gama's arrival at Calicut in May, 1498. That literature will direct the attention of the civilized world to the Portuguese nation, and will draw closer the ties that bind Portugal and England, that bind the nation that discovered the sea-route to the East and failed to found an empire in India and the nation that, coming by that route, has founded that empire.

Portugal fulfilled her mission when she opened the way to new worlds wherein Europeans might display their activity. She was not to found that empire beyond sea which she at one time so fondly dreamt of founding. She now retains but a remnant of her once numerous possessions. It is not intended to examine here the causes of her failure. It is enough to say that no nation having no surplus population to dispose of has succeeded or will ever succeed in colonization. What remains of the colonies of Portugal, likewise of those of Spain, the empire France is building to be a fit monument to the genius of Dupleix, and the whole of South America are the heritage of the vigorous Anglo-Saxon, Teuton, and Slav. We dip into the future and we see these three, and but these three, races holding the dominion of the world.

ITALY AND AUSTRIA'S PLACE ON THE CHINA COAST.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Now that the Chinese Government are giving way on all points to the two aggressive Powers, Russia and France, it behoves all the great trading nations—Britain, Germany, the United States, and Japan, together with Austria and Italy, who though carrying on a lesser trade are interested to a very considerable extent in keeping the Chinese trade with its possibilities unhampered by hostile tariffs—to see that the territory slipping out of the control of the expiring Manchu dynasty is neither left to become the scene of anarchy in the coming great rebellion nor to fall entirely into the hands of a Power that is only intent on a dog-in-the-manger policy.

Taking the above for granted the question arises, how best can these two impending dangers be obviated, and the answer seems to be, the distribution of the coast provinces, or at least strategic points in these provinces, amongst those Powers who only seek to maintain order and safeguard the already great trade with its still greater possibilities.

Next comes the question as to which is to be the sphere allotted to these Powers provided they are willing to undertake the task, and it seems very unlikely that any of the Powers named will refuse at least to occupy some suitable port on the China coast as a naval station, from which point the adjacent coast and inland territory can be coerced into order. It is, indeed, a case where distribution of power and responsibility, amongst those able to assert themselves in this direction, can only result in the common good of all, Chinese included, for the latter if left to themselves will now go from bad to worse; at best the inhabitants of the six southern provinces, Chekiang, Fukien, Kwangtung, Kwangai, Kweichow, and Yunnan would take a long time to settle down on the collapse of the Manchu dynasty—an event well within sight—unless subject to coercion from a European Power.

Now, commencing from the south, Kwangchowwan in Kwangtung seems to be a harbour admirably adapted to the wants of the great naval Power Italy, both for a naval station and a trading entrepôt, as here will centre a considerable portion of the trade of the Upper West River. France's pretensions to this naval base cannot be tolerated by Great Britain, who

would doubtless not object to having Italy for a neighbour. France herself would probably prefer to have Italy located there than to be bundled out, neck and crop, by Great Britain, for sooner or later British interests will demand that the advance of France along the coast should be checked, and the present seems a suitable time to cry Halt! to the versatile Republic in its voracity for additional territory. Hainan she may take, but no more of the China coast. Germany will doubtless be pleased to see her ally, Italy, permanently located in an excellent harbour in South-China, with a fleet of good war vessels ready always to support her own fleet should troubles arise between herself and France, or others; and Austria likewise would see the benefit to her of a more equal distribution of power in Eastern seas should she locate herself, for instance, in one of the excellent harbours on the Fukien coast.

Britain will of course re-occupy Chusan, and the United States might find some suitable naval station on the Chekiang Coast, where she could support Great Britain in keeping the Yangtze open to the trade of all nations, on equal terms.

Japan would of course settle down permanently at Weihaiwei and be given a free hand in Korea to hasten that backward Power on the road to civilization and reform.

Russia can be left free to occupy the northern territories on the distinct understanding that any attempt to advance into the Yangtze Valley or establish differential tariffs will be the signal for the combined great trading Powers to make common cause against her.

AMERICAN BUTTER AND CANNED MILK IN HONGKONG.

The American Bureau of Foreign Commerce now publishes daily advance sheets of Consular reports, an example which might be followed with advantage in England. The following report by the American Consul at Hongkong, dated 14th December last, was published on the 23rd February:—

I am in receipt of a communication from a house in New York, propounding a series of interrogatories relative to a possible market for American butter in Hongkong, the answers to which I consider of sufficient importance to transmit to the Department, with a view to their publication for the information of dairy-men and butter exporters in general.

The butter consumed in Hongkong is imported from Denmark, Australia, and France, with small quantities from California. The Danish is the most popular. The average price obtained for butter in this market is 80 cents Mexican (38 cents gold) per pound. Hongkong being a free port, no statistics as to the total quantity imported are obtainable.

United States creamery butter, properly prepared, and genuine butter, can find a good market here.

American exporters have been labouring under the delusion that anything is good enough for the Asiatic coast, whereas the demand is for the highest grades, and the consumers are willing to pay for them. As per example: People here pay \$1.30 (62 cents gold) a tin for English canned asparagus, when the same firm here (Lane & Crawford) are agents for the finest tinned California asparagus for 55 cents Mexican (26 cents gold), better goods in every way and one-third as cheap. When I bought the last tin he had and inquired for more, the salesman replied that I was the only person who had ever tried it, except himself; that he could not even give a tin away, because it was American.

J. C. Goodchild, late manager of the Hongkong Hotel, the largest hotel in the colony, imported last year from Goldberg & Bowen, Foster and Co., and others of San Francisco, over 1,200 pounds of pickled and creamery butter. He placed it on his table, and the guests had to eat it. The result was that it was liked, and residents of the city fell into the habit of sending to him for rolls for their private use. He imported it in barrels of 100 rolls, each roll weighing 1½ pounds, and it was laid down in Hongkong for from 26 to 32 cents gold per pound.

Of late, fresh Australian butter has been brought herein refrigerators at 55 cents Mexican

(26 cents gold) a pound. There are three small dairy farms on the island that are under Government inspection. The cattle are stable fed, and they only pretend to furnish milk, cream, and butter to European residents. Altogether, it is estimated that these three farms sell 18,000 pounds a year. They charge \$1.60 Mexican (76 cents gold) a pound; so it is decidedly a luxury. Yet it cannot always be depended upon by those who are able and willing to pay. At present, the dairies are closed by the Government on account of hoof and mouth diseases among the cattle. With butter, as with evaporated or canned milk, the demand is rapidly increasing among the Chinese. In regard to the latter article, I am in receipt of numerous letters from our manufacturers. The Helvetia Milk Condensing Company, of Highland, Ill., after writing me several times, sent a case of 48 cans of their cream. I turned it over to the well-known German firm of Lauts, Wegener & Co. They reported to me, as follows:—"We may say that it is excellent in every respect. It is, however, not the class of goods in which a regular trade could be built up, the consumption being exceedingly small. What we require for this market is a cheap kind of condensed milk, sweetened and of white colour, like the Dutch manufacture, which should not cost more than \$1.80 to \$2 Mexican (85½ to 95 cents gold) per dozen cans laid down here, and which is selling in very important quantities, say 500 cases a month or more."

We tried this cream in our family and before the receipt of the above letter decided that it was one of the cases where the goods were too good for the market. The Chinese believe that condensed milk should be white in colour. One of the largest firms in the United States in the past supplied the bulk of the canned milk in this market. They made it white regardless of quality. Now, it is manufactured by a Chinese firm in Canton, who imitates the tins, trade-mark, label, and everything. The fact that the label is more often printed upside down than otherwise in no way detracts from the supposed genuineness of the article. If several firms of a like nature—dealers in butter, milk, hams, etc.—were to combine and keep their own agent here, as the flour and kerosine interests are represented, there is no question but that a hold could be obtained on these large and growing interests.

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,
Consul.

Hongkong, 14th December 1897.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Company's Mine for the month of February, 1898:—

August shaft 300 feet Level.—This has been further extended 39 feet, making total distance from shaft 212 feet. I expected to have intercepted the lode at 189 feet from shaft, but it was only when we had driven 198 feet that we saw any trace of lode, and there only in the shape of leaders, the largest 6 inches wide, so I decided to continue driving north, to ascertain if the lode was further ahead of us; but nothing of value was found. I then decided to bring the men back to open up the leaders east, and to continue this drive if advisable until we cross our North and South lode, which should be standing about 80 feet to the east of us. There is no change to notice in the leaders for the distance driven, 9 feet. It is not defined, but twisted about a good deal.

The face of the North drive looks more promising, and it is possible that the lode may yet be found ahead of us.

The East and West lode is apparently contracting in length, as depth is attained; and it is possible that it may form a junction with our North and South lode, and that the North and South lode will be the main chute of stone in depth. This I think must take place as from the different angles and dip of lodes one must give place to the other in depth if it is continuous.

There is certainly a great change from our 200 ft. level to our 300 ft. level, caused, I think, by the slide perhaps thrown some distance. A masterful lode of 30 ft., wide, like we had at the

200 ft. level, will not cut out like that, but we may have a like difficulty at first in tracing it.

North Shaft.—We again struck quartz at this point 36 ft. below the 200 ft. level, and we have carried it down with us to present depth of 40 ft. 6 inches and have not yet reached foot wall. The stone at this depth is not so defined or so rich for mineral as the stone passed through at 17 ft., below the 200 ft. level, and is to all appearances heaving around to an east and west course, its original course thrown out of same by the slide, or better known perhaps, as a cross course. It will be interesting to watch the effect this will have on our mine in depth, or even at our 300 feet level when this point is reached.

200 ft. level.—A small stope was opened on the gold found in the back of the drive, but not being able to trace it, the stone cutting out work was suspended.

Winze below the 200 feet level.—This is down 22 feet. The lode is not so large as at first, and is dipping away fast to the north, this is also broken up and changing to an east and west course. The shaft is 300 feet to the north of this and will prove the ground independent of winze. We save the stone for milling from this point, but it is poor for free gold.

150 feet level.—A small drive was opened on a leader about one foot wide near the new shaft and stoping commenced. This in stoping up should connect with our 110 ft. level; it will pay for working and give us a little stone for the mill. We did not mill any stone from the mine during the month.

Total drive for the month 108 feet 6 inches.

Milling was carried on for 26 days crushing 2,200 tons of headings for a yield of 261 ozs. 6 dwts. of smelted gold.

Berdan Pans treated 29 tons for a yield of 26 ozs. making total returns of mill gold 287 ozs. 6 dwts.

Cyanide Plant worked 17 days, treating 324 tons for a return of 93 ozs. 5 dwts. of bullion valued at 13/8½ per oz.

Byewash Main Dam.—An extra one has been made 75 feet long, by 12 feet wide. This should greatly relieve our dam and no water should flow over, only in times of very heavy flood.

Flood gates are fixed and all work completed.

Water race from dam.—This has been enlarged and repaired in places.

Buildings.—One of the houses for the coolies is finished and the other well in hand, will be finished and ready for the men in about 10 days.

General.—Everything coming under this head is having our care.

Labour.—A abundant and health of camp good.

Rainfall for the month 3 inches.

RAUB.

The following is the Acting Manager's report for the four weeks ending on 10th March, 1898:—

RAUB HOLE.

Main West Cross-cut.—I have driven 25 ft. North on what I take to be the Bukit Impey Lode. So far it is not defined or regular, but bunches of ore and leaders scattered all over the face. No gold has yet been seen in it. I am still driving on it in hopes that it will improve.

Main North Drive.—This has been extended 22 ft., making a total distance North from the crosscut of 325 ft. The ore is a little large, being about 8 in. thick. I am in hopes that this is the beginning of a new chute of ore.

Leaders.—The winze being sunk to ventilate the leaders has now holed through, giving good air. This will now enable us to work and prospect some of the old leaders, from which I hope to get some fair gold.

BUKIT KOMAN.

No. 1 Level North.—The lode in the face of this drive is larger, being fully 11 feet wide, but it is split up and not at all settled. It appears to be coming back again to its old course. This drive has been extended 21 feet, making the total distance 635 feet.

No. 4 North Air Shaft has holed through to the back of the level at a total depth of 82 feet, giving good ventilation to this part of the mine.

No. 1 North Winze.—The progress with the sinking of this is very slow, as it is being sunk all the way through hard solid ore, and owing to the water, which keeps two men bailing all the time, night and day. Should the water not ease off during the next few days I will make

the necessary survey and start to rise from the level below. The total depth is now 54 feet, leaving still 39 feet to go before breaking through to the level below.

South Drive 140 ft. Level.—I am pleased to say we have again cut what has every indication of being a permanent lode in this drive. It is about 5 ft. thick, 2 ft. on the west side is nice solid ore, and on the east side there is fully 3 ft. of quartz and quartz leaders in which a little gold can be got. Should this continue, as it has every indication of doing, it will practically give us a new mine in this direction, and greatly increase our ore reserves and future prospects.

Leading Stope.—This still continues small. I do not anticipate any improvement here for the next 36 ft. or more, until we get into better country.

No. 1 Stope.—This stope is still stopped, as we can work the ore to better advantage when the No. 2 Stope is brought further over the back of this.

No. 2 Stope.—We have a splendid lode measuring fully 15 ft. wide of nice solid ore, in which really good gold can be seen in breaking the ore.

No. 3 Stope continues about 9 ft. wide and carries very fair gold.

No. 4 Stope going north from the No. 3 South Air Shaft. The lode here continues small. The lode, which has, up to now, been almost perpendicular, goes very flat here, and is the cause of the odd pinching. It will, however, make again in our next stope.

No. 5 Stope.—This continues about 2 ft. thick of low grade ore, and is the only poor stope in the mine.

Bottom Level, South Drive.—This lode increases in size as we drive on it, being now fully 18 ft. wide, of quartz and quartz leaders, which carry gold. This drive has been extended 15 ft., making total distance, from the crosscut, 310 ft.

North Drive.—The lode continues about 7 ft. wide of solid ore. This drive has been extended 16 ft., making the total distance north, from the crosscut, 245 ft.

Bukit Jellis.—Very good progress continues to be made with the sinking of this shaft, which is now down a total depth of 229 feet from the surface, leaving 31 feet to go before opening out at the No. 2—250 feet level.

Battery.—On Monday, 28th ult., we had the usual final clean up for the past 8 weeks work, when 2,242 tons yielded 2,051 ozs. 8 dwts. 0 grs. of smelted gold, being an average of 18 dwts. 7½ grs. per ton, which is the best yield I have had since I took over the management. From the appearance of the mine I have every reason to believe our next crushing will quite equal this. The whole of this ore, with the exception of 4 tons of average quality ore from the Raub Hole, was from Bukit Koman, which speaks well for the quality of the ore in this mine. After doing some necessary repairs to the No. 4 box, and also to the boiler, crushing was resumed at 3 a.m., on Tuesday morning.

Electric Installation.—We have been favoured with very good weather lately, which has greatly helped this work. I am in hopes that everything will be ready here to proceed with the erection of the plant whenever it arrives on the ground.

GILBERT B. WHYTE,
Acting Mining Manager.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

SIXTH ANNUAL CARBINE COMPETITION.

The sixth annual carbine competition of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps concluded on Saturday. The wind was rather heavy, and the light somewhat puzzling, and consequently the shooting was not quite up to the usual standard. The shooting for the Ladies' Purse and the Ladies' Nomination events created much interest and there was a large attendance of ladies at the ranges. At the close of the competition for the Ladies' Purse, Miss Bruce Shepherd, in a few graceful sentences, presented Sergeant Smyth with the prize. Sergeant Smyth, in reply, thanked the ladies of Hongkong for the prize, and remarked that each year it had been won by a married man. This is the second consecutive year that Sergeant Smyth has won this event. After the volley-firing, the prizes in the

Ladies' Nomination Competition were distributed by Mrs. Chapman, but in the darkness the recipients had great difficulty in choosing their prizes. Appended are the results:—

LADIES' PURSE.

	Tl.
Sergeant F. Smyth,	3344333—23
Corporal Skelton,	3333343—22
Q.M.S. Coyle,	3333433—22
Gunner Donaldson,	4423333—22

Position, standing—60 competitors.

200 YARDS—RAPID—STANDING.

Conditions—Seven rounds in sixty seconds.

	Tl.
Sergeant G. Lammert,	3333322—19
" G. C. Hayward,	4433220—18
" E. C. Shepherd,	4433220—18
Q.M.S. Coyle,	4433220—18
Gunner J. Burgess,	3333222—18
Corporal Rutter,	3333222—18

All the 18's are ties. 60 competitors.

LADIES' NOMINATION.

	Nominated by	Tl.
Gunner Stewart,	Mrs. Stewart,	22
Q.M.S. Coyle,	Mrs. Coyle,	22
Bombardier White,	Mrs. White,	22
Captain E. Saunders,	Mrs. Murray Bain,	21
Sergeant G. Lammert,	Mrs. G. P. Lammert,	20
Gunner J. Hance,	Miss Hance,	20
Gunner Reid,	Mrs. Watson,	20
Sergeant Shepherd,	Mrs. Shepherd,	18
Sergeant J. Armstrong,	Miss Armstrong,	18
Gunner J. Swanston,	18
Sergeant F. Smyth,	Mrs. Smyth,	18
Corporal Skelton,	Mrs. Jeffreys,	16
Gunner Wilkinson,	Mrs. Osborne,	17
Gunner C. Hance,	Miss Waddilove,	17
Corporal Brown,	Mrs. Brown,	17
Gunner Nicholson,	Mrs. Armstrong,	16
Gunner H. Arthur,	Mrs. Lawson,	16
Serg. G. C. Hayward,	Mrs. Hayward,	16
Q. M. S. G. Watling,	Mrs. Watling,	16
Gunner J. Gilchrist,	Miss Stewart,	16
Bomb. J. Baker,	Miss Baker,	16
Corporal R. Rutter,	Mrs. Wilkes,	16
Gunner D. Gow,	Mrs. Wilkie,	15
Capt. A. Chapman,	Mrs. Chapman,	15
Lieut. Fullerton,	Miss Chapman,	15
Gunner G. Wilson,	Mrs. T. H. Reid,	14
Gunner J. Burgess,	Mrs. Christie,	14
Gunner T. Donaldson,	Miss Logan,	14
Gunner D. Hart,	Mrs. Hart,	14

"CAMP GAZETTE" CUP.

Sergeant Lammert,	Grand Aggregate,	144
Q.M.S. Coyle,	Grand Aggregate,	143
Sergeant Hayward,	Grand Aggregate,	142

CONSOLATION.

Gunner F. Richardson,	3333544—25
Bomb. J. Baker,	3552433—25

31 competed.

VOLLEY EVENT; won by No. 3 section (Dook),

Sergeant M'Phail in command; 7 teams competed.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD.

FINAL MATCH.

THE LANCASTERS VICTORIOUS.

The final for the Hongkong Football Challenge Cup was played off on Saturday afternoon, 26th March, on the ground of the Hongkong Football Club, Happy Valley, in the presence of a large number of spectators, who watched the match with great interest. Among those present were Mrs. Black, wife of the Acting Governor, (who had kindly consented to present the shield and the eleven gold medals to the winning team), and a number of other ladies.

The previous Saturday, the team representing G. Company, K.O.R., had an easy victory over the representatives of H.M.S. Centurion, whom they defeated by six goals to nothing, and the opinion was fairly general that on Saturday they would again prove one too many for their opponents, who were selected from the 25th Company, S.D., R.A. This expectation was fully realised, for though the Lancasters did not score as many points as on the previous Saturday, having three goals to nil to their credit, the game was one-sided throughout, the Artillery hardly ever having a look in. Though corner after corner fell to the Lancasters, their opponents had only one chance of this kind, and

they were almost continually called upon to play a defensive game. Their backs did some good work, but it was soon evident that their team lacked the combination of their opponents, who, we may add, were excellently captained by Bunting, he and Morton, Rogers, and Lawrence particularly distinguishing themselves. The following were the teams:—

Royal Artillery.—Goal, Bomb. Smith; backs, Gunner Sullivan and Bomb. Hildebrand; half-backs, Gunner Hutchinson, Bomb. Stevens, and Sergt. Fryett; forwards, Gunners Jones, Walshe, Griffiths, Keane, and Lieut. Lloyd-Thomas.

G. Company, K.O.R.—Goal, Hollingsworth; backs, Atherton and Bunting (capt.); half-backs, Sergt. Done, Sullivan, and Orley; forwards, Col. Sergt. Rogers, Hayton, Morton, Mount, and Lawrence.

Mr. J. W. L. Oliver acted as referee.

Play was commenced at half-past four. The Lancasters kicked off and at once invaded their opponents' quarters. Within ten minutes of the start Lawrence passed to Morton, who headed the ball between the posts in fine style. Before half-time he was equally successful with another ball passed to him by Colour-Sergeant Rogers. On change of ends the Lancasters continued to press, two corners, which, however, resulted in nothing, falling to them in quick succession. After a brief visit to the Lancasters' half the ball was again brought dangerously near the Artillery posts and Morton made a good shot at goal, Sullivan doing the same immediately afterwards, both shots, however, being repulsed. Soon afterwards the Lancasters were called upon to defend, and a good shot at goal was made, but it was cleverly stopped by Hollingsworth. Putting in all they knew the Artillery again got hold and made another attempt, but the defence was too good. Getting hold the Lancasters dribbled the ball up the field, and Rogers quickly passing to Morton the latter made another shot at goal and was again successful. A brief suspension of play was caused by one of the Artillery men getting slightly hurt. On the game being resumed Sullivan made a good attempt and subsequently Lawrence, but both failed. About five minutes before the call of time the Artillery secured their first corner. It, however, was fruitless. At call of time the score stood as follows:—

Lancasters,

Artillery,

On coming forward to receive their reward the victorious team were loudly cheered. Bunting received the shield from the hands of Mrs. Black, who congratulated him on the success of his team. Bunting then handed to Mrs. Black a fine bouquet. The presentation of the gold medals followed, and the proceedings terminated with three hearty cheers for Mrs. Black.

CRICKET.

OVER TWENTY-EIGHT V. UNDER TWENTY-EIGHT.

The above match was played on the 26th March. The following is the score:—

OVER 28.	
Dr. Lawson, b Bedwell,	7
Dr. Peard, b Elliot,	29
Capt. Dyson, b Elliot,	32
Rev. G. R. Vallings, b Elliot,	19
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., run out,	74
E. Mast, c Lethbridge, b Bedwell,	16
A. Mackenzie, c Bedwell, b Campbell,	1
Lieut. Shelford, R.N., run out,	2
A. Anderson, c Lethbridge, b Campbell,	10
H. W. Slade, not out,	15
Dr. Swan, run out,	0
Extras,	5

Total,

BOWLING		ANALYSIS.		N.B.	Wickets.
Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.		
Lethbridge ...	14	4	44	—	—
Bedwell	16	1	72	—	2
Elliot.....	16.1	3	43	—	3
G. D. Campbell	9	1	43	—	2

UNDER 28.

Lt. Campbell, H.K.R., run out,	1
Lt. Perry Ayscough, R.N., c Dyson, b Lawson,	15
Lt. Moberly, H.K.R., b Lawson,	0
Bedwell, R.N., b Lawson,	8
M. Elliot, R.N., c Cooley, b Shelford,	26
Lt. Gillett, R.N., c McKenzie, b Lawson,	30
Lt. Greene, R.A., c Mast, b Mackenzie,	18
Lt. Barton, R.N., c Langhorne, b Lawson,	33

Kennedy, b Shelford,	20
Lt. Lethbridge, K.O.R., c Peard, b Shelford,	37
Noble, not out,	0
Extras,	14
Total,	202

NEW BURDENS ON FOREIGN TRADE.

Among the many schemes devised by the Board of Revenue to fill the depleted exchequer of the Central Government and lately sanctioned by Imperial edict is one which will directly affect the foreign trade with the country. Of course the plea is to find funds to repay the foreign loans saddled on the Government and was put into execution about a month ago in the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu, from whence it will gradually spread throughout the Empire. This is that all shops and institutions dealing in foreign goods of any kind or description, as well as those selling wholesale or retail raw or prepared opium, should pay an annual tax of Tls. 50 per shop, irrespective of the size or extent of the business of the places so taxed. Another scheme was also put into execution at the same time which was to levy, monthly, 10 per cent. of the rents on houses paying Tls. 10 and over rent *per mensem*. This is a sort of income tax and falls upon householders and landlords throughout the Empire. With reference to the above, the promise is given by the Throne that the taxes shall "cease as soon as the foreign debts shall have been paid off," which, under present aspects, means never. It remains now to see how the people of the country will receive this news, although, according to northern dispatches, no opposition has so far been met with in the capital, the said taxes being paid without any demur.—N. C. Daily News.

RUSSIA, KOREA, AND JAPAN.

Shanghai, 22nd March.

When the news was received by wire by one of our evening contemporaries that Russia had withdrawn the financial adviser and the military instructors whom she had lent to Korea, this action of Mr. de Speyer, the Russian Minister, seemed so incomprehensible that we forebore commenting on it until we received fuller information. This has now reached us in the newspapers brought by the *Empress of China* and the *Melbourne*, and we can only imagine that the *Japan Mail* is right in attributing it to Mr. de Speyer's having been attacked by a fit of hysteria. The *Independent* of the 12th instant translates from the Korean text the despatch on the subject sent by the Russian Minister to the Korean Foreign Office on the 7th instant, as follows:—

"Recently I have been informed that there exists a deplorable condition of affairs in Seoul; many idlers among your people claiming to be gifted politicians create disturbance by opposing Russian interests. This state of affairs naturally causes great surprise to my Imperial Sovereign, the Emperor of Russia. At the request of your Imperial Sovereign and your Government, the Russian Government had sent military instructors to drill the soldiers and to guard the palace, and an adviser for your Finance Department. This action on the part of my Government plainly indicates Russia's intention of helping your country as a neighbour and her desire to strengthen your independence. But your Government did not seem to appreciate the importance of Russia's action at the time and now your Government freely prevents Russia from accomplishing the advantages and beneficial results for your country which she intended. The present attitude of your Government is so plain that Russia cannot endure this condition much longer. Therefore my Emperor has graciously ordered me to report fully to your Emperor and inquire of your Government definitely whether Korea still desires to be benefited by Russia's help or not; and if the military instructors and finance adviser are not considered necessary by your Emperor and your Government, my Government will make some other necessary arrangement according to the circumstances, but your Government must maintain your independence in the future according to its ability. I am awaiting your reply and

hope it will be received within twenty-four hours, and I further request Your Excellency to report to your Emperor that I desire to obtain an audience with him for the purpose of informing him of the instructions I have received from my Imperial Sovereign concerning this matter."

The reasons that actuated Mr. de Speyer in his *coup* are supposed to be the attempted assassination of Kim, the Russian interpreter, the anti-Russian memorial addressed to the Emperor of Korea by the Independence Club, and the Cabinet's protest against the course pursued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in agreeing to lease a large tract of land on Deer Island, Fusan, to Russia without consulting his colleagues—this is the *Japan Mail's* summary. It will be remembered that when the acting Foreign Minister Min Yong-muk, had made this singlehanded concession to Russia he resigned, but the Emperor re-appointed him two days afterwards. On this the rest of the Cabinet resigned, stating in their memorial that:—"We have countersigned his re-appointment because we consider that it was your Majesty's wish to have him in the Cabinet again. But if we do not resign our positions under the circumstances, even if we are insignificant beings, we cannot be inconsistent. Moreover we consider that one Minister will be enough for transacting all Government business, and we ought to leave the Government without delay. Therefore we hereby send joint resignations and hope your gracious Majesty will accept the same." To this memorial the Emperor replied:—"You have already countersigned this re-appointment and again sending in this joint resignation does not seem to us to be consistent and it seems to us unwise. We are sorry because of your action. You ought to understand our reason for relieving him temporarily and reappointing him again."

Then the Foreign Minister sent in his resignation, on the ground (we are quoting from the *Seoul Independent*) that the impossibility of his accepting the position had been manifested by the officials as well as the people. His Majesty replied as follows:—"We have recently accepted your resignation and we immediately re-appointed you for good reasons. Your desire of resigning a second time seems to result from an indisposition to bear criticism. You need not say anything more and must take up your duties immediately." Then the rest of the Cabinet determined to resign again, and this drew from the Emperor the following edict:—"We have already forbidden the officials who are reported to be taking steps to send in a memorial but now we hear that the Councillors of State intend to memorialise us again. Is the practice of memorialising the Throne the only business the Council does? The continuance of this practice after our previous decrees seems to us entirely uncalled-for. No such memorial will be accepted hereafter."

Apparently Mr. de Speyer's intention was to so alarm the Emperor and his Cabinet by his threat of the withdrawal of Russian support, that they would eagerly repudiate the charge of unfriendliness, and assure him with bated breath and whispering humbleness that they had no desire whatever to do without Russia's protection; but if so, he has been hoist with his own petard. The anti-Russian feeling of all the members of the Cabinet except the Foreign Minister was strengthened by a great open-air meeting in Seoul attended by some eight thousand Koreans held on Main Street, near the Bell-house, on the 10th. The chairman was a Korean, one of the principal merchants in Seoul, and the whole proceedings show the strides that the population of Seoul is making in civilisation. The object of the meeting was to express to the Foreign Minister the popular opinion that Korea, while grateful to Russia for her past services, could do without Mr. Alexeieff and the military instructors, and, as we learn from the *Independent*, it was resolved unanimously amid much excitement and applause that the following communication should be sent to the Foreign Department:—

"To his Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Min Yong-muk;

"SIR.—We, the undersigned, are authorised by the mass meeting of the people of Korea to inform Your Excellency that the people desire the Government to reply to the despatch of the Russian representative concerning the military

instructors and finance adviser that they shall be relieved from their engagements for the sake of maintaining our independent sovereign rights. We pray Your Excellency to consider the wishes of the people in deciding this question

"March 10th, second year of Kangmu.

"Ye Seung-man,

"Chang Bung,

"Hyen Kong-yem,

"Citizen Committee."

The *Independent* adds that "considering the immense number of people assembled the meeting was an orderly one and the addresses were moderate in tone, and any inflammatory demonstration was immediately suppressed by the leaders. There were many foreign spectators, among whom the Russian representative and his staff were interested onlookers."

A Japanese vernacular paper, the *Tokio Asahi*, says that this recent assertion of independence by Korea marks the success of the efforts of the representatives of England, the United States, and Japan, and it adds that now that these Powers have induced Korea to give a decisive reply to Russia, they are bound to accept the responsibility of helping Korea to the utmost extent. But while the recent visit of a British squadron to Chemulpo has, no doubt, helped greatly to stiffen the Koreans, it is unlikely that the representatives of the Powers mentioned interfered to direct in any way Korea's decision.

One explanation of Mr. de Speyer's action is that he desired to please Japan, and so induce her to withdraw her opposition to Russian designs in China; but we should think that in vain would this net be spread in the sight of such a wary bird as Marquis Ito. We rather look upon it that Mr. de Speyer tried a bold stroke, and it has failed, and that the Government in St. Petersburg, as the *Japan Mail* suggests, "will not care to endorse Mr. de Speyer's procedure very vigorously." That Russia, after all she has done, will quietly leave Korea to Japan, is not very probable. She will probably let things drift for a little while, confident that the poor, vacillating Emperor will come round to her again before long. It is noticeable on the one hand that the guard at the Russian Legation at Seoul has just been doubled; and on the other, that, apparently with the view of proving that it is not Russian advice alone of which Korea wishes to be independent, the latter has also given notice of dismissal to Colonel Nienstein, one of her American military advisers. Meanwhile, Japan has a splendid chance to regain some of her lost influence, if her Minister, Mr. Kato, uses the opportunity with discretion and gentleness.—*N. C. Daily News*.

FOOCHOW SPRING RACES.

FIRST DAY, WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH.

The weather was fine though somewhat close owing to the absence of any breeze. To have a fine day was an agreeable surprise as our Spring Meeting is generally held in cold, wet, disagreeable weather. Another surprise was the capital racing, for what with the small number of ponies entered and an insufficient number of riders the meeting was looked forward to as likely to be a very tame affair. Our thanks are due to two sportsmen from Amoy for kindly helping us out of our jockey difficulty. For the Spring Meeting on the Foochow course the times made were good.

THE FLYAWAY STAKES; of \$5 each with \$50 added; for all China ponies; weights as per scale. Half a mile.

Mr. Dorset's Millstream, *154lbs. ...

(Mr. Andrus) 1

Capt. Hope's Himalaya, 155lbs ...

(Mr. Von Tanner) 2

Mr. Westfield's Beggarman, 158lbs ...

(Mr. Keay) 3

*5 lbs. over.

This was a bad start, Millstream having got away five to six lengths ahead of the field, but Himalaya and Beggarman came up well in this order, a length only separating the first, second and third at the finish. Time 1.04.

THE SPRING CUP; value \$100; for Foochow, Amoy and Hongkong subscription ponies; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile. Mr. Dorset's Sea Breeze, 158lbs.

(Mr. Morrison) 1

Mr. H. P. White's Hermit, 155lbs. ...

(Mr. Andrus) 2
Mr. Westfield's Desperation, 155lbs. ...

(Mr. Keay) 3
Before the fall of the flag Desperation broke away twice and when it did fall he was left standing. Sea Breeze took the lead from the start and kept it to the winning post, coming in easily three lengths in front of Hermit. Desperation a bad third. Time 2.19.

The AMOY CUP; presented; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile and three quarters.

Capt. Hope's Toledo, 161lbs. ...

(Mr. Von Tanner) 1

Mr. Twomen's Kilroy, 155lbs ...

(Mr. Andrus) 2

The two only were entered. At the start both ponies sailed away in good form, Toledo allowing Kilroy to make the pace but waiting upon him very close, and so they ran until going up the back straight for the last time when Toledo took the lead and beat the Amoy pony by three lengths. Time 4.02.

THE YUEN FOO STAKES; of \$10 each; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this Meeting 7 lbs. extra. Seven Furlongs.

Mr. Barney's The Ute 155lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1

Mr. Westfield's Beggarman 158lbs. ...

(Mr. Keay) 2

Mr. Dorset's Millstream 156lbs. ...

(Mr. Morrison) 3

*7lbs. extra.

For quite half the distance the field ran well together, then Millstream fell behind and there was a very pretty race up the back straight between The Ute and Beggarman which continued to the judge's box, the former coming in the winner 1½ length. Time 1.57.

THE HACK STAKES; of \$5 each with \$5 added for each Starter. For all China Ponies not otherwise entered. Jockeys who have never had a winning mount in China or Hongkong previous to this meeting allowed 7 lbs.; weights 11 stone; ponies that have never won a race allowed 7 lbs. Once round.

Mr. Chance's Nagilook, *140lbs. ...

(Mr. Hughes) 1

Mr. Morrison's Spindrift, †151lbs. ...

(Mr. Morrison) 2

*14 lbs. allowed. †4 lbs. over.

This was a walk over. Time 1.53.

THE RACING STAKES; of \$5 each with \$50 added for the first pony, and \$25 for the second pony; for Foochow and Amoy subscription ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7 lbs. extra; previous non-starters 5 lbs. extra. One mile and a half.

Mr. Min's The Ancient, *159lbs. (Mr. Keay) 1

Mr. Barney's The Ute, †162ls. (Mr. Andrus) 2

Mr. Dorset's Sea Breeze, †165lbs. ...

(Mr. Morrison) 3

*5lbs. extra †7lbs. penalty. †7lbs. penalty.

There was some delay in getting off owing to Sea Breeze breaking away three times but it was a good start at last. Sea Breeze led the field followed by The Ute and The Ancient. On passing the stand the second time The Ancient had taken second place, and at the ¼ mile post passed Sea Breeze, taking the lead, which he kept. At the top of the back straight The Ute also gave Sea Breeze the go by. In the end The Ancient won easily by 6 lengths, while 2 lengths separated the second and third ponies. Time 3.33.

THE NANTAI STAKES.—Of \$10 each; divided 70, 20 and 10 per cent. to the first, second and third ponies; a forced entry for all ponies entered at this meeting, except those entered only for the hacks; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Twomen's Kilroy, 155lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1

Mr. Westfield's Desperation, 155lbs. ...

(Mr. Keay) 2

Mr. Min's Ranger, 158lbs. (Mr. Morrison) 3

To a good start Kilroy took the lead but was passed at the stand by Desperation. Ranger was soon out of it. For some distance it appeared as if Desperation was going to get the best of it but he could not keep his position and Kilroy finished 8 lengths ahead of him, Ranger coming in a bad third. Time 2.53.

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH.

Umbrellas and rain-coats were taken down to the course in the morning, but in spite of the threatening rain none came, and as the

temperature was lower it was far more agreeable than on the first day for spectators and less trying for the riders and ponies. The attendance was again good, and notwithstanding the small fields there was some good racing. **THE FOH KIEN CUP**; value \$100; second pony to receive \$25; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this Meeting 5 lbs. extra for each race won, entrance \$5. One mile and a half.

Mr. Twomen's Kilroy, *160lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1
Mr. Min's The Ancient, †163lbs. (Mr. Keay) 2
*5lbs. extra. †5lbs. extra.

The appearance of a race was maintained for the greater part of the distance, but Kilroy came in an easy winner by 9 lengths. Time 3.32½.

THE MIN STAKES; of \$5 each with \$50 added; for Foochow and Amoy subscription ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7 lbs. extra, of two or more races 10 lbs. extra. One mile.

Mr. H. P. White's Hermit, 155lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1
Mr. Dorset's Sea Breeze, *165lbs. (Mr. Morrison) 2
Mr. Westfield's Desperation, 155lbs. (Mr. Keay) 3
*7 lbs. extra.

At the start Desperation was left, but quickly caught the field and the three ran well together to the ½ mile post. Here Sea Breeze went out and took the lead but was passed before reaching the Joss-house by Hermit and Desperation. On entering the straight Desperation's saddle shifted and the jockey lost his stirrup, a swerve outwards at the same time putting him out of the running, and leaving Hermit to come in an easy winner by two lengths. Sea Breeze came up fairly well at the finish. Time 2.21½.

THE LOTTERY CUP; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 10 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Once round and a distance.

Mr. Westfield's Beggarman, 158lbs. (Mr. Keay) 1
Capt. Hope's Himalaya, 155lbs. (Mr. Von Tanner) 2

Beggarman went to the front on the fall of the flag with the favourite waiting closely on him up to the 1 mile post. Here Himalaya took the lead but coming down the straight Beggarman was ridden out and came in the winner. Time 1.36½.

THE STAND STAKES; of \$5 each with \$50 for the first pony, and \$25 for the second pony; for Foochow, Amoy and Hongkong subscription ponies; weights as per scale; winners of one race at the Meeting 7 lbs. extra, of two or more races 12 lbs. extra. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. Barney's The Ute, *162lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1
Mr. Dorset's Sea Breeze, †165lbs. (Mr. Morrison) 2
*7lbs. extra. †5lbs. extra.

Sea Breeze showed the way round to the top of the back straight when The Ute colours were seen to go to the front. It was a good race down the straight but The Ute was not to be passed again and won. Time 1.42.

THE CONSOLATION CUP; value \$100; for all bona fide beaten ponies that have run at this meeting, and not won a race; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile.

Capt. Hope's Himalaya 158lbs. (Mr. Keay) 1
This was a walk over, all of the other ponies entered having been winners excepting Ranger, who was too lame to start.

THE CHAMPION STAKES; of \$10 each with \$50 added; a forced entry for and open only to winners at this meeting, optional for the winners of the hacks and Consolation Cup; winners of two races \$15 extra, of more than two races \$25 extra; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Capt. Hope's Toledo, 161lbs. (Mr. Von Tanner) 1
Mr. Twomen's Kilroy, 155lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 2
Mr. Min's The Ancient 158lbs. (Mr. Keay) 3
Mr. Dorset's Millstream, †152 (Mr. Morrison) 0
†3lbs. over.

From a good start, the field went away in the following order: Kilroy, Millstream, Toledo, The Ancient. On first passing the stand

Kilroy still led, but Toledo had assumed second place and The Ancient third, leaving Millstream behind, where he remained. In this order they ran until after passing the 1 mile post when Toledo was ridden out and took the lead from Kilroy. The result, however, was by no means certain then, for Kilroy was going strong and well and coming down the straight looked as if he might yet catch the judge's eye first, but if was not to be; Toledo proved himself the better pony and won by three lengths. The Ancient was a bad third. Time 2.50.

THE WELTER PLATE; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights 11st. 7 lbs.; non-winners at this meeting allowed 7 lbs. Riders who have never won a race allowed 7 lbs.; entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile.

Capt. Hope's Himalaya, 161 lbs. (Mr. Andrus) 1
Mr. Westfield's Beggarman, 161 lbs. (Mr. Keay) 2
Mr. Dorset's Sea Breeze, 161 lbs. (Mr. Morrison) 3

This was a very good race. To a good start Himalaya took the lead with Beggarman and Sea Breeze in close attendance, and in this order they continued to run, Sea Breeze alone losing ground. The race home was most exciting, as Himalaya and Beggarman appeared to be running neck and neck as they passed the stand. In the end Himalaya won by a short head. Time 1.39½.

PLACED PONIES.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Kilroy	2	2	0
Himalaya	2	2	0
The Ute	2	1	0
Toledo	2	0	0
Sea Breeze	1	2	2
Beggarman	1	2	1
The Ancient	1	1	1
Hermit	1	1	0
Millstream	1	0	1
Nagiloo	1	0	0
Desperation	0	1	2
Spindrift	0	1	0
Ranger	0	0	1
	14	13	8

PLACED RIDERS.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Mr. Andrus	7	3	0
Keay	3	4	4
Von Tanner	2	3	0
Morrison	1	3	4
Hughes	1	0	0
	14	13	8

—Echo.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 16th March, 1898.

Tientsin in these days of political crises is as newsless as the North Pole. Renter gives us the reverberation of the thunder fulminated so ably by Dr. G. G. Morrison in Peking. About a fortnight after decisions are made and events occur in the capital we begin to get corroboration as the important items of news percolate through to lower strata. Your correspondent is often in a position to get early information of events known to the higher local officials; that he does not get this information now is due to the fact that they themselves have not got it.

Never before in my time has so keen an interest been taken in foreign politics by the average Chinaman. This is largely due to the very liberal education now given by the *Kwo Wen Pao*, the new Chinese paper which makes a specialty of reproducing the opinions of the European and American Press. *En passant* it is worthy of notice that the frank utterances of this very ably conducted journal have attracted the adverse notice of the Russians and of the Tsungli Yamen. Just as likely as not this is a consequence rather than a coincidence. This improvement in intelligent opinion has had no effect in action. Although three years have elapsed since hostilities ceased, Northern China has no way whatever recovered from the paralysis sequent on Japan's victory. Wang Wen Shé in his character of Director of Coast Defence has done nothing to remedy the disaster of 1894. Port Arthur is as defenceless as Peking, and men and material are in as hopeless a state of in-

efficiency as ever. The bureaucrats in the capital are looking around for a victim or a scapegoat, and would like to find one in Wang; but he can justly claim impunity for failing to make bricks without straw.

Wang Wen Shé as a matter of fact has shewn himself within the limited field of his opportunities a very capable official. He is an extremely open minded man, and has gained the confidence of natives and foreigners alike by his courtesy and enterprise in new directions. It says much for the intelligence of a great Chinese officer that after a lifetime of absolute ignorance of foreigners and their ways he can gain their confidence and esteem after a year or two's intercourse. His Excellency has come splendidly forward on the Peiho improvement scheme, and it is not his fault that the works are not now begun. At the very moment when the scheme was ready for approval, it was discovered that the taxation of the shipping to meet the charges of interest and redemption on the loan raised by the foreigners was against the treaties; consequently the whole thing is hung up till a means can be devised of clearing this difficulty. In the meantime Peiho goes on with his self-strangulation. Tientsin can hardly be called a seaport at present.

After a phenomenally mild season, during which the river was only closed for a few weeks, the navigation was re-opened a fortnight ago. Winter, however, came back with a snap; drift ice accumulated in the bends, gradually jammed itself up till a solid mass ten feet thick formed, totally stopping all traffic. The greatest block on record has been seen at Tongku and the Bar. Thirty-one steamers and one sailing vessel were waiting at one time for lighter and wharf accommodation. Yesterday the ice-boom was broken and we now hope to see trade resumed.

It is now fully anticipated here that if the river does not improve the steamer companies will move their wharves and godowns to Tongku. Our one great joint stock affair, the Taku Tug and Lighter Company, has resolved in the presence of river difficulties and diminishing dividends to raise its freights some 25 per cent. The railway is credited with the policy of reducing its tariff to similar figures, with the notion of really competing for the traffic.

The new German Concession has been bungled and is about to make a start. Progress, too, is steadily maintained in the British Municipal Extension, the regulations for which are now awaiting the Minister's approval. They are in every way a great improvement on the costly legislation which obtains on the old Settlement.

Our winter socially was very quiet. Tientsin is getting too big for the old family like style of amusement. An epidemic of measles precluded private festivities, and the mild weather sadly interfered with the skating. On the other hand polo and gymkhanas took a firm hold of the community. Great disappointment has been felt that our enterprising neighbour, Mr. J. M. Dickinson, had such ill fortune in his sporting pilgrimage to Hongkong. Stray Shot is ready a grand pony and we all regret that Hongkong was not convinced of the fact.

Training has not yet begun. Our next event in the world of sport is the opening, on Easter Monday, of the splendid pavilion presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. C. Anderson to the community. This handsome building is probably the finest thing of its sort in the East. We hope to persuade Sir Claude and Lady MacDonald to grace the occasion by their presence.

The mere rumour of Prince Henry of Prussia's approach threatens to produce an epidemic of an obscure and occult sickness among our officials. The heads of departments are between the devil and the deep sea. As heads they will have to wait on His Royal Highness; they know they will be sat upon in Peking if they do so; if they don't, and complaints are made, they are more certain still that they will be cashiered. The most curious thing about all this is that among the less responsible officials there is growing up a strong feeling of contempt for Peking and all its works. People speak openly about cutting off their queues and those of your readers conversant with Chinese history know what this implies.

It is quite true that the governing caste is gravely talking of removing the capital away from the seaboard—Si-Ngan-Fu, the provincial

capital of Shensi, is spoken of as the Ravenna of the Chinese Honorius. I need not add that such a step is not likely to become a practical measure. Such a confession of impotency as it would imply would destroy the dynasty by internal ferment.

Russia meanwhile carries on her policy of unscrupulous bluster and bluff. St. Petersburg knows nothing of the thousand and one petty machinations which her agents here work on personal account, but it instantly assumes the advantage and prestige of these when successful. Recently a Russian Colonel has been appointed military instructor in Shaoshau, the nearest great military camp to Tientsin. His contract, sent down by the Tsungli Yamen, because it feared to face the consequence of refusing to accept it, is a most wonderful document. He is to be paid by the Czar, but is to receive Tls. 300 a month from the Chinese for expenses; he cannot be dismissed by the Chinese; is to have sole power of appointing and dismissing all other foreign and native instructors; is not to take orders from the local or provincial officers, &c., &c. This precious document issues from the Russian legation as if it had the very imprimatur of the Czar himself. As a matter of fact it is entirely the fabrication of Mr. Pavlov or one of his subordinates. If it succeeds, Russia takes up the coin of vantage it gives and drives one more nail into the coffin of Chinese autonomy.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Viceroy and the Governor are praying for rain daily in the temple of the gods of the sea. Their service commenced on the 26th inst. The slaughtering of swine is strictly prohibited. On the 28th instant the sky was clouded, but there was no rain. The officers will continue to pray till rain makes its appearance.

The Viceroy, the Governor, and the Tartar General have issued a further notification encouraging the people to apply for the loan bonds of one hundred taels each bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum repayable in twenty years. They say that as the bond forms are not yet ready they will give receipts for money which will be exchangeable for bonds subsequently.

It is said that a large number of robbers in Sawan are about to raise a rebellion. They have a good many weapons and junks in readiness for the purpose. A few days ago a junk which, it is said, belonged to the robbers, laden with two hundred rifles, two hundred revolvers, two hundred pistols, and a large quantity of ammunition was seized by a cruiser near Linfashan. When the cruiser was seen, the junk was abandoned by the crew, who swam ashore and landed. Their plot has been made known to the mandarins, who have sent many detectives to make enquiries.

It is said that the Sansz in Canton are going to establish a free English school in Pohingsai Street where all the subjects of an English education are to be taught. The teachers are Chinese.

On the 19th inst. a gang of about eighty robbers made an attack on a village named Lichuen, in Punu district. Seven houses were looted. The value of the booty amounted to ten thousand dollars. When the robbers went away they took a farmer belonging to the village as hostage, so that the villagers dared not give pursuit.

A clan fight broke out in a village named Ngoiyeungtsai, in Takhingchow, and is still going on with great ferocity. The local officers, who were unable to stop it, have applied to the Canton Government for assistance. A good many lives have been lost during the fight.

A correspondent at Kiukiang confirms in a note dated the 23rd March the news we (N. C. Daily News) lately gave as to the attitude of the Yangtze Valley Viceroy and Governors towards Peking. He says—It is reported here that the Governor of Kiangsi in common with the other high officials of the Yangtze is disobeying the Emperor's orders to disband the provincial regiments, and they are on the contrary secretly enlisting troops on their own account.

HONGKONG.

The departure of the fleet for the North has been the chief topic of conversation during the past week and every item of news in regard to the position is eagerly sought for. The battleship *Victorious* arrived on Thursday. She and the *Immortalité* are now the only British warships in the harbour, and they will be going to the North very shortly. The principal social event was of course the ball given by the civil community in honour of H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia. The ball was given in the City Hall, and the decorations were on a most magnificent scale, while the company present was large and thoroughly representative, amongst those present being H.E. the Acting Governor, H.E. Admiral Seymour, and a number of naval and military officers of various nationalities. On the 25th March Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) delivered an excellent speech on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to the scholars of the Victoria English Schools. On Saturday the 26th March, the final for the football challenge shield was played at the Happy Valley between a company of the Royal Artillery and a company of the King's Own Lancaster Regiment. The Lancasters won by three goals to nothing. At a special meeting of the Sanitary Board it was resolved to advise the Government to declare Macao a place infected with bubonic plague and to recommend the medical inspection of Chinese passengers arriving from that colony.

There were 3,166 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 277 were Europeans.

Commander Hastings had between 20 and 30 persons before him on Tuesday for keeping dogs without licenses, fines ranging from \$1 to \$3 being imposed in most cases.

A communication has been received by the Government from the French Consul stating that Asiatic immigration into Saigon from Hongkong has been temporarily prohibited on account of the plague.

The following official telegram has been received:—"Shanghai, 28th March, 1898. Colonial Secretary, Hongkong. Medical inspection on steamers from Hongkong, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, and Formosa ports.—Consul."

The following telegram has been received by the Kowloon Commissioner of Customs from the Commissioner at Shanghai:—"Medical visit enforced forthwith on vessels arriving from Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Hongkong, and Formosa."

At the special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board on Thursday Dr. J. M. Atkinson, the President, observed:—"I may mention for the information of the members that Mr. McCallum is now practically convalescent from his recent attack, and I hope he will be able to leave for Japan next week."

The M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, which arrived from Shanghai on 25th March and left with the homeward French mail on the 26th, held no communication with the shore here except for the landing and taking on board of mails. She took no passengers from Hongkong, either European or Chinese, although passages had been booked. These precautions were observed in order to escape quarantine at Saigon.

On the arrival at Nagasaki of the O. & O. Company's chartered steamer *Venus* on the 21st March it was found that the chief engineer was suffering from a severe attack of small-pox, which, it is supposed, he had contracted at Hongkong. The necessary measures for disinfecting the vessel were at once undertaken by the authorities.

At the Police Court on Thursday a Chinese excise officer was heavily fined by Commander Hastings, for bringing a false charge. On Wednesday P. C. Lippiat, under a search warrant for opium, accompanied the excise officer to a house at No. 122, Second Street. The constable went upstairs in pursuance of his search, and was shortly afterwards summoned to the ground floor where the excise officer stated he had found six mace of opium on the bed of one of the occupants. Five more of the occupants corroborated a statement by the defendant that the excise officer had placed the opium on the bed to obtain a conviction. At the Magistracy yesterday Commander Hastings dismissed the charge against the occupant of the house, fined the excise officer \$50, and ordered his dismissal from the service.

On Thursday at the Police Court Commander Hastings sentenced a boatman to four months' imprisonment with hard labour for assaulting a boatwoman while their sampans were lying alongside the steamer *Chung Shin* on 25th March. A collision occurred between the two sampans getting alongside the steamer, and a dispute arose. The defendant and another man beat the woman with bamboos and knocked her into the water.

At the Police Court on 28th March, before Commander Hastings, a Chinese was charged, on the information of Inspector Cuthbert, with unlawfully keeping a gaming house at 21, Nullah Lane, and ten other Chinese were charged with gaming on the premises on Saturday. The offence was admitted. The first offender was fined \$5, or six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour and each of the others \$2, or ten days' hard labour.

The Manager of the Hongkong Branch of The Straits Insurance Co., Limited, has received a telegram from the Head Office giving the following summary of the Company's accounts to be submitted at the next annual general meeting:—Net premium for year 1897, \$742,000; amount carried forward from working account, 1897, to new account, \$219,000. The sum of \$961,000 has been withdrawn from Reserve Fund. Balance at credit of Profit and Loss, \$345.

A Chinese woman and two men were charged at the Police Court on Thursday, before Commander Hastings, with removing from a house in Yaumati, early that morning, a sick and apparently dying woman, the female prisoner being fined \$5 and each of the male prisoners \$1. The prisoners were observed by an Indian constable placing the woman on an old boat lying high and dry on the beach. Inspector Robertson ordered the removal of the woman to the hospital, and yesterday morning she died of plague.

The Mount Austin barracks will be ready for occupation early next week, and as soon as the arrangements are completed four companies of the King's Own Lancaster Regiment from Victoria Barracks will be drafted to the Peak. The Victoria Barracks will then be taken over by the Royal Artillery, who are at present stationed at North Barracks, which will be handed over to the Naval authorities. The married men's quarters will in a short time be removed to buildings to be erected near Kennedy's Stables.

At the Magistracy on 28th March an enquiry was held by Commander Hastings into the circumstances attending the death of a Chinese boatwoman. At half past nine on the morning of March 22nd a sampan lying off Bonham Strand was capsized by the military steam-launch *Alexandria*. It was occupied by four women, three of whom were rescued. Deceased, however, became entangled under the boat, and some time elapsed before she could be set free. She was removed to the military hospital, but died shortly afterwards. The body was removed to the mortuary, and a post mortem examination showed the woman had died from shock and syncope following submersion. The *Alexandria* collided with the sampan in attempting to avoid a collision with another steam-launch. The verdict was in accordance with the medical testimony, and the Magistrate exonerated the *Alexandria* from all blame.

Mr. Quong Tart writes us from Sydney informing us of the intended visit to China of Dr. On Lee. During the past forty years the doctor has journeyed to and from his native land several times, but on no occasion under just the same circumstances as those attending him this time. Having practiced his profession for three years in England and since then very successfully in nearly all the Australian colonies, he has, Mr. Quong Tart says, gained the respect of all classes, and will commence his trip with the good wishes of all who know him. The significance of his visit this time is emphasized by the fact that he will carry with him a letter of commendation from the Government under which he lives, and letters and autograph photos of His Excellency the Governor, Lord Hampden, and of many of the leading statesmen and high officials. He proposed leaving Sydney by the steamer *Australia* on 15th March.

We (Singapore Free Press) understand that the German steamer *Amigo*, which is at present under charter to the Borneo Co., will on her arrival in Hongkong, via Saigon, be chartered to Messrs. Kunst and Alber, the leading firm in Vladivostok, to run between Hongkong and that port. After being re-classed she will take in a general cargo, consisting amongst other things of flour and stores, for Vladivostok.

The Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China informs us that he has received telegraphic advice from the head office in London that at the approaching meeting of shareholders of the Bank the directors will recommend a dividend for the past half year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, making 9 per cent. for the year, that £75,000 be added to the reserve fund, and £12,000 carried forward as undivided profit.

Mr. St. C. Michaelsen and family left for Europe on 30th March by the N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, and will carry with them the good wishes of a large circle of friends. Mr. Michaelsen, who has had a highly successful business career, has retired from the firm of Messrs. Melchers & Co., and will not, we believe, return to the Far East. He came out to the firm from which he now retires, in 1877, and has been the Hongkong resident partner for the last ten years. He has filled the chair of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and several of our public companies and in business as well as in social life has earned the respect of all who knew him. He also filled the office of Russian Consul and in 1891 had the honour of receiving the present Czar, then Czarowitch, on his visit to Hongkong, for which he was decorated with the orders of St. Stanislaus and St. Anne.

We have received from Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. a copy of "Chinese Airs," arranged for the pianoforte by Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., Bandmaster of the 1st P.W.O. West Yorkshire Regiment. The selection has been adapted to Western notation and harmonised from the original Chinese tunes. There are eight numbers, of which "Sin Fa" (Fairy Flower) is the brightest and the most popular with the Chinese. To Western ideas Chinese music is peculiar, but Mr. Bentley's selection of airs will form an interesting item in any musician's repertoire. Many of our readers will be familiar with the airs through hearing them played by the West Yorkshire Band; the pianoforte arrangement is perhaps not quite so pleasing, but that is only equivalent to saying that the piano is incapable of producing the same effects as a full band. In one of Mr. Bentley's remarks accompanying the airs he says:—"The So-na or Chinese clarinet is played with a reed similar to a bassoon, only smaller; the whole of the reed is inserted in the mouth and produces a tone which is better heard at a distance," a remark which may be applied to the generally of Chinese musical instruments, though we have heard the yang-ch'ui (Chinese dulcimer) played very sweetly.

A game of American football was played at the Happy Valley on 29th March between teams representing the *Olympia* and the rest of the fleet. American football is, to the uninitiated Englishman an exaggerated and rough and tumble form of the Rugby game. There were innumerable scrimmages, each of which lasted on an average about half a minute, the ball no sooner being taken than all the men rolled on each other in a heavy mass and the whistle sounded. The *Olympia* won, as far as we could ascertain, by two goals and two tries to nothing, and the game was, according to one gentleman, remarkably good "considering that the players were green and out of practice." A bucket containing water or some other liquid played as important a part in the game as the ball. Players continually ran and refreshed themselves, even in the middle of the game, and if a player got injured, the same liquid was used to bathe the wounds and wash away the blood. It was a well fought game, and as far as personal injuries were concerned honours were easy. At half time only two of the players had their heads bandaged, but we did not stop to see how many more sufferers there were at the finish. One feature of the game was quite foreign to the spectators. Frequently one heard somebody shout "18.4.29.7," or other figures, which it seems are a private code signal which only the particular side it is intended for understand.

At a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board on Thursday it was decided, owing to the prevalence of bubonic plague and smallpox at Macao, to recommend the Government to institute a medical inspection of all Chinese coming to Hongkong from Macao. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) has been to Macao recently with the object of getting information as to the prevalence of the plague there, and previous to yesterday's meeting his report was in the hands of the members. The report is to be considered confidential, and we are consequently unable to lay it before our readers. Only one paragraph was read at the meeting, namely:—"For some months past smallpox and plague have been prevalent in Macao."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The stock, goodwill, and fixtures of the *Shanghai Daily Press* were sold by auction by Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. on 21st March. The whole was sold in one lot, and was knocked down to Mr. Thos. Kingsmill, the price realised being Tls. 10,100.

The *China Gazette* states that the German mail steamer *Bayern* is taking home nearly £250,000 in gold bars from China, the export by the "big" bank alone representing £150,000 worth of the yellow metal from China. Our contemporary believes the bulk of this gold has come from Japan.

We (*China Gazette*) learn that cargo going home to Europe by a Russian steamer from Japan has been insured at home at war-rates. Whether the owner of the cargo in question is acting on "a straight tip," or merely threw away his money in a sudden and unreasoning fit of terror, remains to be seen.

At Hengchou in Hunan the soldiers took advantage the other day of a festival in honour of Longevity Buddha to pull down the chapel belonging to the London Mission, and carry off everything they could lay their hands on. No personal injury was done to anyone connected with the chapel.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Fire broke out in two of the cotton mills at Shanghai on the afternoon of the 24th March, the first at the Laou-kung-mow Mill, and the second at the International. In both cases it occurred in the scutching rooms, but it was discovered before any damage to speak of was done through the alarm of Grinnell's sprinklers. The fires in both cases were put out without much difficulty. In the International two workwomen were injured in the rush.—*China Gazette*.

At Asan, in the Marianne Islands, a British subject named Galo Kaminga was murdered on the 9th January last. From the report of the occurrence given by the Manila *Comercio* it appears that the victim and his wife were taking a walk when they met a drunken native ex-convict named Francisco Cruz, who attempted to kiss the lady's hand. Thereupon Kaminga knocked him down. On getting up the ex-convict said, "You had better look out," and ran to his house, which was close by. Kaminga went to give information to the Gobernadorcillo, who ordered the arrest of the ex-convict, but when they were going to execute the warrant the criminal gave Kaminga a stab in the heart which proved instantly fatal. He then escaped and fled into the mountains, but was arrested two days later.

An accident which might possibly have ended in a sad disaster occurred in the Lyceum Theatre at Shanghai on Saturday evening, 19th March, but was averted through the pluck and promptness of Madam Portier and Mr. Lefarriere. It appears that one of the wings dropped upon a lighted gas jet and immediately caught fire. Madame Portier seeing it rushed and seized the wing, endeavouring to remove it from the gas bracket and Mr. Lefarriere coming up rendered assistance and on getting the scene from the gas beat out the flames with his hat. No one else appeared to observe the scene fall and had it escaped the notice of the lady and gentleman in question it is terrible to contemplate the possible result, with so many children on the stage and such a full audience. They deserve the thanks of the community.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,887,884	6,277,746
Shanghai and Hankow ...	14,068,439	17,809,185
Foochow	12,309,891	12,518,868
Amoy	685,651	589,478
	82,912,265	87,195,277

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	18,823,511	18,244,214
Amoy	15,861,506	19,022,415
Foochow	7,516,903	11,405,219
	42,201,920	48,671,758

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	19,462,293	22,940,123

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	26,739,512	27,565,583
Kobe	15,776,817	14,961,219
	42,516,329	42,526,802

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 28th March.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London telegrams to date quote a quiet market and Blue Elephants 10/3. Gold Kilings are quoted from Lyons at Fcs. 27.75. Raw Silk.—Again nothing to report. In Taysams, a parcel of Chincum Tiger Tayhow has been settled of Tls. 450. In Yellow Silk some 100 bales have been settled; the market remains quiet. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, March 19th to 25th, are 165 bales White, 63 bales Yellow, and 189 bales Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—About 50 bales Steam Filatures, market cargo, have been settled at Tls. 640 to Tls. 695. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 5,141 bales to America, 3,476 bales to the Continent, 47 bales to Japan and 23 bales to London. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent.; Exchange 2/6; Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale:

	Tls.	Stg.
	per pol.	per lb.
Chincums.—Tiger, Tayhow	450	9/4
Yellow Silk.—Meeyang No. 1	380	7/8
Wongchow	270 a 280	6/0 a 6/3
Steam Filatures.—		
Market Chops, 18/15 den	640 a 695	13/9 a 14/11

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	11,240	5,084
Canton	10,908	3,350
Yokohama	30,851	17,277
	52,999	25,711

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	46,588	44,557
Canton	20,315	20,481
Yokohama	18,068	16,976
	85,371	82,014

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—There is little change in this market to be reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$46.00 to \$46.25. Sales, 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—A further fall in prices is reported, the market being very dull. Quotations are:—

Shenkloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.30 to 7.33	per pol.
do. " 2, White...	7.00 to 7.04	"
Shenkloong, No. 1, Brown...	3.87 to 3.90	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.76 to 4.80	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.22 to 7.25	"
do. " 2, White...	6.92 to 6.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.82 to 4.85	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.72 to 4.75	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.30 to 11.35	"
Shenkloong	10.20 to 10.50	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per German steamer *Erato*, sailed on the 12th March. From Hongkong for Havre:—12 bales canes, 3 cases human hair, and 1 package matting samples. For Havre option Hamburg—150 bales canes, and 17 cases essential oil. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—468 cases camphor, 10 cases essential oil, and 5 cases cassia oil. For Hamburg:—500 cases cassia, 500 cases broken cassia, 379 packages canes, 134 bales feathers, 90 cases palm leaf fans, 50 packages firecrackers, 10 cases teasticks, 7 boxes bamboo baskets, 4 packages sundries, 3 packages rattan ware, and 2 bales teamats.

Per German steamer *Crefeld*, sailed on the 15th March. For Singapore:—6 cases merchandise. For Colombo:—296 bags green peas. For Genoa:—200 bales waste silk. For Genoa and/or Hamburg:—40 bales canes. For Trieste:—50 bales rattan shaving. For Antwerp:—243 bales bamboo scraps, 207 bales broken cassia, 127 bales leaf tobacco, 112 bales rattanware, 7 cases curios, 3 rolls matting, and 1 package tea. For Amsterdam:—19 cases tea sticks, and 2 cases lanterns. For Rotterdam:—5 cases cigars. For Antwerp and/or London and/or Bremen Hamburg and/or New York:—248 bales feathers. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—40 cases bristles. For Bremen:—121 rolls matting, 50 cases ginger, 20 cases curios, and 6 cases powderware. For Hamburg:—64 boxes cassia, 43 bales rattanware, 30 cases bristles, 24 bales cassia, 21 cases essential oil, 11 bales canes, 1 roll matting, 1 case preserves, and 1 box sundries. For Hamburg:—500 boxes cassia lignea, and 500 bales broken cassia.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, sailed on the 19th March. For London:—10 cases silk piece goods, 3 cases China ink, and 518 boxes tea. For France:—265 bales raw silk, 1 case silk piece goods, and 22 packages tea.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on the 19th March. For London:—10 cases silk piece goods, 3 cases China ink, and 518 boxes tea (10,378 lbs. congou). For France:—265 bales raw silk, 1 case silk piece goods, and 22 packages tea.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on the 19th March. For London:—17 cases cigars from Manila, 5 cases sundries, and 30 bales feathers from Foochow, 145 bales canes, 70 bales palm leaf fans, 100 bales waste silk, 74 bales and 3 cases feathers, 16 cases blackwoodware, 13 cases chinaware, 3 cases curios, 21 cases botanical specimens, 18 cases pers. effects, 14 cases sundries, 4 cases cigars, 1,495 rolls mats & matting, and 200 packages tea. For London and/or Manchester:—173 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Patroclus*, sailed on the 21st March. For London:—1,000 bales hemp, 300 cases ginger, 27 cases cigars, 35 packages shells, and 7 packages sundries. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—750 bales hemp, and 12 cases cigars. For Glasgow:—13 packages hides, 2 packages curios, and 4 cases walnuts. For New York:—200 bales hide cuttings. For Port Said:—10 cases glass bangles.

Per steamship *Oopack*, sailed on the 22nd March. For London:—200 cases soy, 119 cases ginger, 100 cases chinaware, 28 bales feathers, 12 cases blackwoodware, and 5 cases bambooware. For Dundee:—100 cases ginger, and 6 cases blackwoodware. For Beyrouth:—50 cases cassia.

Per steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on the 26th March. For France:—439 bales raw silk, 2 cases silk piece goods, 4 cases curios, 19 cases gall nuts, and 12 packages hair.

Per steamer *Ghazee*, sailed on the 28th March. For New York:—2,560 packages cassia, 2,152 rolls matting, 3,319 packages firecrackers, 1,115 packages rolled paper, 3,682 packages merchandise, 340 packages Joss sticks, 450 cases cassia buds, 138 cases Chinaware, 200 bags rice, 100 bales waste silk, 50 cases soy, 65 boxes bristles, 50 boxes gall nuts, 14 packages preserves, 16 cases human hair, 7 cases blackwoodware, and 7 cases lacquerware.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—Bengal—Prices have further receded, closing quotations being \$195 to \$697½ for New Patna, 707½ for Old Patna, \$692½ for New Benares, and \$695 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has not been much doing during the past week, and rates are rather easier. Latest figures are as under:—

Old (2/3 yrs.) \$850 with allowance to 3 catties
 " (1/5 ") \$890 " " of ½ to 2 "
 " (6/7 ") \$920 " " of 0 to 2 "
 " (8/9 ") \$950 " " of 0 to 8 "

Persian.—The market is quiet, and rates are unchanged. Oily closes at \$490/630, and Paper wrapped at \$540 to \$660 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....	390 chests
Old Patna.....	1040 "
New Benares.....	380 "
Old Benares.....	360 "
Malwa.....	140 "
Persian.....	703 "

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 26	702½	710	697½	700	—	—
Mar. 27	702½	710	697½	700	—	—
Mar. 28	702½	710	697½	700	—	—
Mar. 29	700	710	695	697½	—	—
Mar. 30	700	710	695	697½	—	—
Mar. 31	697½	707½	692½	695	—	—
Apr. 1	695/697½	707½	692½	695	—	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—Fair business at almost steady rates. Stocks, about 1,800 bales.

Bombay.....	\$16.75 to 19.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee.....	to "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.....	17.50 to 19.75 "
Shanghai and Japanese.....	22.00 to 23.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	22.00 to 23.00 "
Madras (Best).....	to "
Sales: 1,300 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—Continued large arrivals have checked the advance prices. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.57 to 3.60
" Round, good quality.....	3.90 to 3.95
" Long.....	4.10 to 4.15
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden, " No. 1.....	4.20 to 4.25
" White.....	4.95 to 4.98
" Fine Cargo.....	5.05 to 5.10

COALS.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—Cardiff.—Stocks very small; no sales reported. Japanese.—Sales of 10,000 tons at \$8 to \$10½. Quotations are:—

Carbiff.....	\$19.00 to 31.00 ex ship, steady.
Australian.....	\$11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady.
Milki Lump.....	10.50 to 10.75.
and Small.....	
Moji Lump.....	7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady.
Hongay Lump.....	9.00 to —
Hongay Dust.....	4.80 to —
Briquettes.....	10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 8 at \$77, 1,050 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$94.75, 550 bales No. 12 at \$81.50 to \$89.50, 87 bales No. 16 at \$87, 1,150 bales No. 20 at \$97 to \$102.50. Grey Shirtings.—700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.99, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.60, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Crab at \$2.55, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Postman at \$2.57½. White Shirtings.—300 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.25, 250 pieces S. S. at \$4.72½, 250 pieces Flower at \$4.97½. T. Cloths.—600 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.77½, 180 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican gold Dragon at \$2.75. Drills.—750 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.37½, 150 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock at \$3.97½. METALS.—Iron.—240 kegs wire nails, small sizes, at \$7.55, 300 kegs wire nails at \$5.40. Tin.—200 slabs Siam at \$39.65, 100 slabs. Foong-chai at \$40.25. Quicksilver.—700 flasks at \$130. to \$131.50.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	72.00 to 103.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	109.00 to 116.00
" 22 to 24.....	112.00 to 117.00
" 28 to 32.....	123.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42.....	131.00 to 138.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.....	1.75 to 1.85
7lbs.....	2.00 to 2.07½
8½ lbs.....	2.50 to 2.50
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.40 to 4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.....	2.40 to 2.60
58 to 60 ".....	2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 ".....	3.55 to 4.40
Fine.....	4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds.....	3.80 to 5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.65 to 1.80
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.55 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ").....	1.90 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.).....	2.40 to 3.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs.....	3.75 to 5.15

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 7lbs.....	1.50 to 4.00
Brocades—Dyed.....	3.00 to 5.60
Damasks.....	per yard 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.20 to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.17½ to 0.18½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	per dozen 0.45 to 0.90
WOOLLENS.....	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.51½ to 1.40
German.....	1.15 to 1.50
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 5.25
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	per piece 6.50 to 9.00
Assorted.....	6.60 to 9.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted.....	12.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain.....	7.00 to 8.50

Blankets—8 to 12lbs.....	per pair 5.50 to 14.00
METALS.....	per picul

Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar.....	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar.....	5.75 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.60 to —
Hoop.....	5.50 to —
Wire 15/25.....	9.75 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	1.50 to 3.00
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop.....	8.80 to —
Australian.....	8.70 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.....	32.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.....	31.50 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.....	31.50 to —
Composition Nails.....	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	30.00 to —
Tiles.....	29.00 to —
Tin.....	to —

Tin-Plates.....	per box 6.00 to —
Steel ½ to ¾.....	per cwt. case 4.50 to —
SUNDRIES.....	per picul
Quicksilver.....	129.50 to —
Window Glass.....	per box 4.30 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	per 10-gal. case 1.93 to —

SHANGHAI, 26th March.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—There is considerable uneasiness still respecting the political situation, and this has been by no means allayed by the recent rumours that Russian soldiers were expected to occupy Port Arthur to-day and the British fleet had been ordered to go North. The news received yesterday, too, that the English half of the new China loan had only been applied for by the public to the extent of 25 per cent., although applications for the German half a few days before were much in excess of the total required, seemed to point to fresh complications, the outcome of which is causing grave anxiety. This has possibly only served to intensify the dullness of a week that has been almost entirely devoid of interest in this trade, and it is confidently expected that things will come to a crisis in a few days more. Meanwhile the steamers are loading for Newchwang and leave to-morrow morning for Chefoo, there to await orders. Latest telegrams advise a decided change in the weather there, but considerable ice in the River still. Shipments will probably not be quite so large as it was anticipated they would, as it seems some goods that formerly went to Newchwang for distribution have already been diverted by way of Vladivostok. As such goods are entitled to a drawback of the Import Duty when re-exported to the latter Port it will be interesting to learn if this is reimposed when the goods filter into China again via the Russian Provinces, and how although at present it pro-

ably does not amount to anything very considerable, it may develop and cause an important shrinkage in the Revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs that has been given as security for several foreign loans. Arrangements are being made for the collection of the *likin* tax on goods in the interior by the Foreign Customs Authorities, this having been given as part of the security for the new loan, and will doubtless cause the same amount of trouble and inconvenience that usually attend such innovations in this country. As this will affect the pockets of the Official classes a new tax is being imposed on native business houses to make up for the loss, and thus further hamper trade. Trade is gradually settling into proper shape in Tientsin, latest advices being more encouraging, but they still have a large quantity of goods there to work off. Clearances for other ports are going on satisfactorily of former purchases, very few fresh orders however are coming in yet. There has been some forward business, but mostly in specialties. Prices at Auction are easier for all Gray Cottons, and also Woollens goods.

METALS, 28th March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Balford & Co.'s Report):—There has not been much done, the few contracts closed being below; but there have been a number of offers telegraphed home, these being mostly declined on account of high freights and prices not being up to those obtainable elsewhere. A notable change has been noticeable in Lead this year. Whereas during the last year not over 1,000 tons of Szechuan lead, put on the market in peculiar ingots, were used, more especially by the tea packers, this year a very much greater quantity has been offered, the foreign produce seeming to have fallen into quite second place. The following contracts have been closed: 1,000 cases Bamboo Steel "Double Horse" £12.1.6 c.i.f.; 50 tons Steel Plate Cuttings 90s. c.i.f.; 200 tons Steel Test Pieces 94s. c.i.f.; 200 tons Glasgow Horse-shoes 86s. c.i.f.; 150 tons London Cart-tyres 101s. c.i.f.; 100 tons Scrap Iron 80s. c.i.f.; 20 tons Ship-Plate 1/4 to 1/2 £27. c.i.f.; 25 tons Black Iron Sheets, 16 to 26, £2.10 c.i.f.; 120 cases Galv. Corr. Sheets, 26 to 28, £12.17.6 c.i.f.; 60 cases Galv. Plain Sheets, 28, £13.6.6 c.i.f.

JOINT STOCK SHARES

HONGKONG, 1st April.—A fair business has been put through during the week at steady rates. Settlements on the 31st March, which were unusually heavy, passed off satisfactorily and did not affect the market to any extent.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet and more or less nominal at 184 to 185 per cent. prem.; very few shares have changed hands, but small lots are now wanted at 186 for cash and at equivalent rates on time. Nationals unchanged with a small business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market continues dull all round with little or no business to report. China Traders, Cantons, and Unions are on offer at quotations, whilst the Northern Insurances are obtainable from Shanghai. Straits have been enquired for to a limited extent at \$13.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Continue weak with no business. Hongkongs remain on offer at \$335 and Chinas at \$99.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao after ruling quiet all the week came into some demand over settlements and a fair business was done at \$26 1/2, \$26 1/2, and \$27, market closing with sellers at \$27. Indo-Chinas have been in request and have changed hands at \$60, \$60 1/2, \$61, and \$62, closing steady to strong. Douglasses continue on offer at \$58 without business. China Manilas and China Mutuals remain unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled very steady at \$166 and have changed hands at that and at much better than equivalent rates for time, chiefly May and June, at \$172 and \$173. Luzons continue weak and with a small business.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled somewhat weaker with sellers and but few sales at \$6.50 and \$6.25. Olivers and Balmorals continue out of favour and on offer at quotations with but little business to report. Charbonnages have changed hands at \$150 for June, but remain with cash sellers at \$140. Jebebus have declined to \$1 1/2 with sales. Raubs have ruled exceptionally strong and after fair sales at \$25 1/2, \$25 1/2, \$25 1/2, &c., have jumped to \$28 1/2; advices from the South of an anticipated good crushing are responsible for the rise.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have moved rather erratically during the week with sales at 250, 248, and 246 per cent. prem., and back again to 250 and 252 per cent. prem., at which latter rate the market closes firm with buyers cash and at equivalent or rather better than equivalent rates forward. Kowloon Wharves continue dull and without business at quotations. Wanchais after small sales at \$41 close quiet.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet and out of favour at \$74, with little or no business. Hotels have ruled easier with sellers at \$53 1/2 and only a small business to report. Humphreys Estates are obtainable at \$8 1/2 without finding buyers. West Points have changed hands at \$20.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled very quiet and out of favour, and have declined to \$28 1/2 and \$14 for old and new respectively without business. Watsons and Ices continue on offer at \$12 and \$107 without finding buyers. Campbell and Moores could be placed at quotation. Other stocks under this heading without business or change.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$357 1/2, buyers
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	186 % prem=
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	\$1	£5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$'9, sales
Founders Shares..	\$1	\$19
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$167, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong	\$20	\$31, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 103
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 505
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 93
Dairy Farm Co.	\$6	\$5 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$30
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$28 1/2, sellers
Do. New Issue	\$2 1/2	\$14, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$53 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$57, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	252 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		[\$440, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$125, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$98, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$64, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 148, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$13, buyers
Union	\$50	\$217 1/2, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$140, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$74, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$39, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$140, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5.40, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2 1/2	\$2.60, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$1 1/2, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.50, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$18 1/2, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2 1/2	\$4.25, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6.25, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.90, sellers
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$23 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$1 1/2, ex div.
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$74, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	\$10	£7 5s., ex div. b.
Do. Preference...	\$10	£5 ex div. buyers
Do. Do.	\$5	£2 10s., ex div. b.
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$53, sellers
H., Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$27, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$62, sales & buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.40, sales
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$41, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 28th March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—Business has not been brisk. Unsettled politics, scarcity of ready money, and the approaching settlement, have all interfered. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash sales have been made at 194 and 195 per cent premium, and for June at 202 per cent. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' Insurance shares changed hands at \$65, North Chinas are offering at Tls. 200. Fire Insurance.—There is no local business reported. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao steamboat shares were placed to Hongkong at \$26.50. A fair business was done in Indo-China S. N. shares at Tls. 43.50 cash and Tls. 46 for the 80th June locally, and to Hongkong at \$60 cash and \$60.50 for the 80th April. China Mutual S. N. Preference shares were sold at Tls. 60 and Ordinary shares at Tls. 26, cum the dividends of 3 per cent. and 6 per cent. respectively. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 39 and Tls. 40 cash, Tls. 41.50 for June. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$42. Mining.—Sheridan Mining share are wanted. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed at \$29 for the 10th April. Cash shares are offering at \$27. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Business has been done in Boyd & Co. shares at Tls. 195, Shanghai Dock shares at Tls. 87.50 cash, Tls. 85 for March, and Tls. 90 for June, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 126.50 cum div. Lands.—No business reported. Shanghai Land Investment shares are wanted at Tls. 90 and held for Tls. 92.50. There are sellers of Hongkong Land Investment shares at \$74. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were sold at Tls. 215. Major Brothers, Limited.—The Directors' report and statement of accounts for 1897 have been published. The meeting of shareholders will be held on the 25th current. The profits amount to Tls. 12,109.38, equal to 4.40 per cent. on the paid up capital, as against 2.62 per cent. in the previous year. From this is deducted the debit balance of Tls. 2,474.07 brought forward, and the balance of Tls. 9,635.31 is placed to Depreciation and Adjustment account. In Cotton Mill shares, Internationals were sold at Tls. 112-110 cash, and Tls. 112 for both March and April, and Soy Chees at Tls. 505, Tls. 490 and Tls. 505. Laou-Kung-Mows are offering. China Flour Mill shares were sold at Tls. 55. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.—The Directors' Report and statement of accounts for 1897 were presented and passed at a meeting of shareholders held on the 23rd instant. The net profits for the year amounted to Tls. 31,181.38, equal to 31.18 per cent. on the Capital, as compared with 35.59 per cent. in the previous year. Including a balance of Tls. 486.72 from 1896, and deducting Tls. 15,000 paid in three interim dividends of 5 per cent., there remained a balance of Tls. 16,668.10 to divide. A sum of Tls. 9,000 was placed to Reserve, which now stands at Tls. 75,000, and a final dividend of 5 per cent. was declared, making 20 per cent. for the year, which leaves a balance of Tls. 2,668.10, out of which a bonus of one month's pay to the employees of the Company will be paid. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed, and are offering, at Tls. 180. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—The Directors' Report and statement of accounts for 1897 have been published for the meeting of shareholders called for the 6th April. The balance of working account is Tls. 145,663.23, which exceeds that of 1896 by Tls. 28,362.34. The net profits, after writing off Tls. 10,668.86 for Depreciation, amounts to Tls. 123,390.42, equal to 18.53 per cent. on the capital, as compared with 14.35 per cent. in the previous years. Deducting the interim dividend of 15 shillings paid in July at exchange 2/8, and adding the balance of Tls. 8,421.26 from the previous year, there is a sum of Tls. 91,311.68 at credit of Profit and Loss, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 25/0 per share, at exchange 2/5 1/2 equal to Tls. 72,605.64, and to place Tls. 10,000 to the credit of the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at Tls. 30,000, leaving a balance of Tls. 8,706.64 to be carried forward. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 85-84.50 cash, and Tls. 92 for both July and August. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares changed hands, and are offering, at Tls. 300. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares were placed at \$40, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$40. Loans.—Shanghai Land 5.50 per cent. Debentures were sold at par, plus the accrued interest.

Quotations are:—

BANKS,

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$368.75.

Bank of China and Japan, dehd.—£5.5.0.

Do. ordinary.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$18.50.	
COTTON MILLS.	
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100.00.	
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—12.00.	
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.	
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 109.00.	
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 505.00.	
DOCKS, WHARVES, & CO.	
Royd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 250.00.	
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 195.00.	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$58.	
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$438.4.	
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 175.00.	
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 87.50.	
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 121.50.	
INSURANCES.	
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$130.	
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$100.	
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65.	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$340.	
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 200.00.	
Strait Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$13.	
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$225.	
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ltd.—\$142.	
LANDS.	
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$74.	
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$84.	
Shanghai Land Invest. Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 92.50.	
MINING.	
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6.45.	
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.20.	
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$27.	
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.	
SHIPPING.	
China Mutual preference.—Tls. 60.00.	
Do. ordinary, £5 paid.—Tls. 26.	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 170.00.	
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$59.	
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.	
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 44.70.	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 150.00.	
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.00.	
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 110.00.	
SUGAR.	
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$168.	
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$43.	
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 38.00.	
MISCELLANEOUS.	
American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 95.00.	
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$13.13.	
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 55.00.	
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$40.00.	
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$60.00.	
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 35.00.	
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 500.00.	
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215.00.	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.	
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 120.00.	
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.00.	
Do. New Issue.—Nomininal.	
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.	
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 84.50.	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 305.00.	
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.	

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 1st April.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.33
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.37½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.88½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140
Bank, on demand	140½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140
Bank, on demand	140½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	8½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	4½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.66
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	56.00

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st April.—During the past fortnight we have a large number of fixtures to report and rates have improved all round; there is a continued scarcity of ready tonnage, and the market shows signs of a further advance for prompt tonnage.

From Hongkong to Kobe there is a good demand at 42 cents and to Yokohama 45 cents per picul.

Saigon to Hongkong ready steamers are much wanted and 37 cents would be paid for a medium-sized carrier loading within ten days.—To Japan, 48 cents is offered for loading within 3 to 4 weeks.

Bangkok to Hongkong there has been a lively demand at as high as 40 cents outside and 45 cents inside the bar, for 3 trips, at which figure several settlements have been effected; to load for Japan, 50 sen (Japanese currency) has been paid for a medium-sized carrier and further tonnage could be placed.

Newchwang to Canton has advanced to 37½ cents per picul; there is no further tonnage offering under 40 cents per picul. No news had yet been received that the port is clear of ice. A large carrier has been closed at 36 cents per picul Newchwang to Yokohama and another to Amoy at 33 cents, and further tonnage is required.

Iloilo to Japan small carriers command 50 cents per picul.

Coal freights Moji to Hongkong are \$1.50 per ton, to Singapore \$2.25; both quiet.

Sailing tonnage.—The American barque *Geo. S. Horner* is reported fixed at home to load hence for Baltimore; her rate has not transpired. Hence to New York, tonnage could probably be taken at about 13s. per ton.

There is only one vessel disengaged in port, registering 700 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Jacob Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,088 tons, sold for \$8,750.

Canton—British steamer, 1,100 tons, Iloilo to Kobe, 45 cents, Yokohama 47½ cents per picul.

Canton—British steamer, 1,100 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per ton.

Canton—British steamer, 1,100 tons, Iloilo to Kobe, 45 cents, Yokohama 47½ cents per picul.

Canton—British steamer, 1,100 tons, Moji to Manila, \$2.50 per ton.

Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,008 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 33 cents per picul.

Kaifong—British steamer, 998 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 37½ cents per picul.

Phoenix—Norwegian steamer, 1,367 tons, Newchwang to Yokohama, 35 cents per picul.

Glennur—British steamer, 3,026 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton.

Wuhu—British 1,250 tons, Moji to Bangkok, \$4 per ton.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton.

Changsha—British steamer, 1,463 tons, Karatzu to Manila, \$2.75 per ton.

City of Lucknow—British steamer, 2,371 tons, 4 ports Java to Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.

Aldershot—British steamer, 1,254 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

Regina—German steamer, 1,407 tons, Rangoon to Hongkong, 45 cents, Kobe 70 cents per picul.

Whampoa—British steamer, 1,109 tons, Kebao to Saigon, \$3 per ton.

Chun Sung—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Bangkok to Kobe, 53 cents, Yokohama 55 cents per picul.

Wuhu—British steamer, 1,250 tons, Bangkok to Kobe, 53 cents per picul.

Glennur—British steamer, 1,925 tons, Bangkok to Kobe, 53 to 55 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Bangkok to Yokohama, 55 to 60 sen.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, 3 trips Bangkok to Hongkong, 40 to 45 cents per picul.

Min—British steamer, 1,981 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 37½ to 42½ cents per picul.

Chili—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 41 sen per picul.

Elphinstone—British steamer, 1,141 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 45 sen per picul.

Glennur—British steamer, 1,425 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 45 sen per picul.

Martha—German steamer, 1,560 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33½ cents per picul.

Christwick—British steamer, 1,312 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.

Oceana—German steamer, 1,738 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33½ cents per picul.

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 34 cents per picul.

Pathan—British steamer, 1,723 to s, Saigon to Hongkong, 34 cents per picul.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 34½ cents per picul.

Kongkong—British steamer, 662 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.

Mongkut—British steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33½ cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

Benwick—British steamer, 2,164 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32½ cents per picul.

Lokang—British steamer, 979 tons, hence to Yokohama, 42 cents per picul.

Shantung—British steamer, 1,835 tons, hence to Yokohama, 43 cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, monthly, 9½ months, sub-charter \$550.

Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,008 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$6,400 per month.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, monthly, 10 months, \$6,250 per month.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$9,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE RERTH.

For LONDON.—*Dardanus* (str.), *Sunda* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Peking* (str.); *West York*, *Imberhorne*.

For NEW YORK.—*Benalder* (str.), *Lennox* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Prince Heinrich* (str.).

For PORTLAND.—*Argyll* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Menmuir* (str.), *Jacob Christensen* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Tamba Maru* (str.), *Melbourne* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Columbia* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

25, Else, German str., from Bangkok.
26, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
26, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Canton.
26, Yayeyama Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
26, Mongkut, British str., from Saigon.
26, Cerberus, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Columbia, British str., from Kobe.
26, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., from Sydney.
27, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
27, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
27, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
27, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
27, Kaifong, British str., from Tientsin.
27, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
27, Peiyang, German str., from Shanghai.
27, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
27, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
27, Whampoa, British str., from Iloilo.
28, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
28, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
28, Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
28, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
29, Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.
29, Bayern, German str., from Shanghai.
29, Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
29, Hunsang, British str., from Moji.
29, Phra C. C. Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
29, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Foochow.
29, Tokio Maru, Japanese str., from Y'hama.
29, Bengloe, British str., from London.
29, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
29, Archer, British cruiser, from Hoihow.
29, Hydaspes, British str., from Singapore.
30, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
30, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
30, Ceres, German str., from Moji.
30, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
30, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
30, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
30, City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F. cisob.
30, Keelung Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
30, Siam, British str., from Saigon.
30, Hailan, French str., from Haiphong.
30, Antenor, British str., from Liverpool.
30, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
31, Kwongsang, British str., from Tientsin.
31, Yiksang, British str., from Chefoo.
31, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
31, Victorious, British battleship, from S'pore.
31, Martha, German str., from Saigon.
31, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
31, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
31, Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
31, China, German str., from Saigon.

April—

1, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
1, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
1, Thames, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Woosung, British str., from Wuhu.
1, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.

- 1, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 1, Glenturret, British str., from London.
 1, Kintuck, British str., from Liverpool.
 1, Teucer, British str., from Liverpool.
 1, Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
 1, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 1, Nanyang, German str., from Swatow.
 1, Tancarville, British str., from Sumatra.
 1, St. Andrews, Norw. str., from New York.
 1, Verona, British str., from London.

MARCH—DEPARTURES.

- 26, Astrid, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 26, Astral, British str., for Pulo Sembilan.
 26, Tamarind, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Oceanien, French str., for Europe, &c.
 26, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 26, Aktiv, Danish str., for Bangkok.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, San Joaquin, Spanish str., for Manila.
 26, Satona, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
 27, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 27, Ghazee, British str., for New York.
 27, Hainan, German str., for Chefoo.
 27, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Kenai Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 27, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 27, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Kaifong, British str., for Canton.
 28, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 28, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 28, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
 28, Kalgan, British str., for Takao.
 28, Memnon, British str., for Sandakan.
 28, Propontis, British str., for Kobe.
 29, Singapore, British str., for Bangkok.
 29, Hansa, British str., for Saigon.
 29, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 29, Gefion, German cruiser, for a cruise.
 29, Rainbow, British str., for the North.
 29, Edgar, British cruiser, for the North.
 29, Chwunshan, British str., for Bangkok.
 29, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Mogul, British str., for Moji.
 29, Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
 29, Pronto, German str., for Kobe.
 29, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 29, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 29, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 30, Hsinchi, Chinese str., for Canton.
 30, Else, German str., for Bangkok.
 30, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 30, Handy, British torpedo boat, for Chefoo.
 30, Hart, British torpedo bt., for Chefoo.
 30, Choyasang, British str., for Canton.
 30, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 30, Tai Fu, German str., for Kobe.
 30, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 30, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 31, Centurion, H.B.M. flagship, for Chefoo.
 31, Keelung Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 31, Whiting, H.B.M. torpedo boat, for Chefoo.
 31, Fame, H.B.M. torpedo boat, for Chefoo.
 31, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 31, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 31, Archer, H.B.M. cruiser, for Chefoo.
 31, Alacrity, H.B.M. des. ves., for Chefoo.
 31, Cerberus, British str., for Bangkok.
 31, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 31, Davawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
 31, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 31, Kongalf, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 31, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 31, Tailee, German str., for Amoy.
 31, Whampoa, British str., for Kebao.

APRIL—

- 1, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 1, Yiksang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Yayeyama Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 1, Lyeemoon, German str., for Kobe.
 1, Hanoi, French str., for Pakhoi.
 1, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 1, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 1, Choyasang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Miss Fleming, Rev. and Mrs. C. Shaw and 4 children, Messrs. L. S. Crawford and C. E. Pierce, and Capt. Douglas.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Messrs. W. Doherty, A. H. Haerri, and H. S. Playfair.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, Messrs. J. M. Bastot da Silva, Hamonitch, Crane, C. P. Ritson; from Yokohama, Mr. G. A. Kunkel; for Saigon from Shanghai, Messrs. Quemener Charles and Labrude; from Yokohama, Messrs. Rabeyroux, Issartier, and Gaubert; for Singapore from Nagasaki, Mrs. Irata; for Suez from Yokohama, Mr. Jules Adam; for Port Said from Shanghai, Mr. Trookhatcheff; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Messrs. Bouguet, Thomas Grancois Marie, Rigolot, Grille, Augiliatre, Mrs. V. Paul, and Mr. P. Paul; from Yokohama, Mr. Fliche, Miss Fliche, Messrs. A. Deguy, N. Suda, J. Tahara, T. Iwazaki, and O. Warin.

Per *Cerberus*, from Bangkok, Mr. W. Grossmann.

Per *Columbia*, from Kobe, Dr. Carl Johnson.

Per *Yamashiro Maru*, from Australia, Messrs. A. Marks, R. H. Marks, Ensign Waldron, Ensign Hamilton, Lieut. Pearson, Lieut. Fernandez, Capt. Robson, Messrs. J. H. Parry, H. F. Weeks, C. N. Post, J. S. Post, R. W. Elington, Miss Turnbull, Messrs. R. Oglesby, J. McPherson, and F. C. Whinnerah.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. E. T. Bates, Miss A. Cerles, Mrs. O. H. Hilton, Miss M. Hilton, Major and Mrs. H. S. Pickards, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Crane, Mr. W. S. Fritz, Miss M. Fritz, Miss C. M. Flood, Mr. E. M. Smith, Miss L. M. Cerber, Mr. E. F. Seymour, and Mr. T. L. Flood.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Rief and Reim.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Colombo, Mr. Hans Muller, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. Coleman, and Mr. H. A. Peto; from Singapore, Mr. Blamey, Mr. and Miss Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Short, Mr. Edwin Gresham, Mr. and Mrs. Kaufmann; from Saigon, Messrs. Helps, H. B. Hams, C. K. Bakton, C. Corrayon d'Oreilli, Grimelino, Brumer, and Pair; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Launay, P. M. Kechine, de Brummer, Rev. V. Stille, Mr. Max Felser, Mr. and Mrs. Vaine and son, Mr. Leyonanyue, Mr. and Mrs. Bonnat, Mr. and Mrs. Dufomy; from Singapore, Mr. Greig, Capt. Hintse, Messrs. Gaygino and Leidenberg; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Mertens, Messrs. Deboulet and Bindez; from Bombay, Mr. and Miss Talbot, Mr. G. Gerald, Mr. and Miss Hay, Miss Clement Smith, Messrs. Mendith and Frescher; from Singapore, Mr. Nakayama; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mrs. Comto.

Per *Hohenzollern*, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Blad and children, Mr. Savano, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Walter, Mr. F. Schoene, Miss P. Weise, Mrs. T. C. Hartland and children, Mrs. Dunlop and children, Mrs. B. S. Edwards and children, Mr. B. A. Munster, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and child, Miss J. Rilot, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Cavy and children, Consul von Krenski and family, Mrs. E. Reynell and children, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin and child, Miss Payne, and Mr. A. H. Rothbart.

Per *Phra C. C. Klao*, from Bangkok, &c., Mrs. Giblin and child, Miss Robertson, Miss Carver, and Miss Worley.

Per *Bayern*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Miss Ransome, Messrs. F. Kammerlyell, R. M. Gray, P. Sachse, J. R. Michael, C. Sackermann, F. R. Sylva, M. Oppel and J. Jamieson; for Europe, Mrs. Singewald, Mr. T. Ruth, Mrs. McFarlane and children, Mrs. Gardner and child, Mr. and Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Ballard and children, Mrs. T. W. Andrews, Miss Tukes, Mr. A. McLachlan, Mrs. McKelvey and children, Mrs. F. Stanley and child, Mrs. F. Ross and children, Mr. Joh. Thyen, Mr. M. N. Vakorin, Lieut. Travinsky, Mr. and Mrs. Pela and Mr. G. Dobberke.

Per *Tokio Maru*, from Yokohama, Miss Booth, Mrs. Hearne and 5 children, Messrs. C. Bill, W. Teele, P. London, Fukuba, and Kemematsu.

Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Farrow and Kinghorn.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. G. G. Harvey, F. G. Price, Chan Shu Nin, Chan Kee Chun, Thomas Rider, and Cheong Shing.

Per *Choyasang*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Pithy and Lang.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Dr. and Mrs. Fahmy and three children, Rev. D. D. Fraser, and Mr. Myrow.

Per *City of Peking*, from San Francisco, &c., Countess Festetics, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Swayne, Mrs. E. W. Shattuck, Messrs. A. G. Center, R. H. Wright, J. J. Collins, and J. Callaway.

Per *Antenor*, from Singapore, Messrs. Pastrol and Holt, and 650 Chinese.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. F. Reyes and 4 children, Mrs. C. Glandon, Revs. Ragmundo, Cortaza, and Miguel Roscales, Messrs. D. Carnshaw, F. Fuset, Juan Ormarchen, F. Lara, L. Brandt, A. Blackhall, Eustacio Javier, C. Kleinmann, John G. Hitchfield, Th. Chiue, T. Buckert, and J. Burton.

Per *Borneo*, for London from Yokohama, Capt. Trotman, and Mr. J. Woodbridge; from Kobe, Mr. I. Chope, Mrs. Chope, 1 son and 2 daughters, Mrs. J. Morrison, and Miss Lily Lawrence; from Shanghai, Master Ref, Mr. and Mrs. Mutter.

DEPARTED.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, for Kobe, &c., from Hongkong, Messrs. B. Lathrop, Colby, Hinton, Dashiell, Talmage, J. G. Heap, E. A. Simmons, H. S. Potter, and Ma Yuk Tong; from Southampton, Messrs. F. A. Schirffelm, D. A. Hoyer, T. A. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Bilbrough, Messrs. S. Kishi and T. Hasegawa.

Per *Haitan*, for Swatow, Mr. Ernst Mirow; for Foochow, Messrs. F. W. Mills and F. S. Molyneux, and Mrs. Yu Tse San.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Baron de Meyer Watson, Mrs. Nickels, Messrs. H. Boisard, H. Hadelmann, Miss Eyre, Mrs. Vincart, Miss M. Vincart, and Miss E. Vincart; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Querena da Silva, Mr. E. W. Elmanoff; for Kobe, Mr. J. H. Livingstone, Miss Livingstone, Messrs. Knapp, A. S. Hay, Miss H. B. Hay, Mr. J. B. Meyer; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Rienacker.

Per *Hailoong*, for Amoy, Dr. C. Johnston, and Mr. O. Murakami.

Per *Loongmoon*, for Shanghai, Miss Tina Meyer, Mrs. Air, Mrs. Primrose and 2 children, and Mr. Kupsch.

Per *Bayern*, from Shanghai for Southampton, Mrs. McFarlane and children, Mrs. Gardner and child, Mrs. Ballard and children, Mrs. McKelvey and children, Mr. and Mrs. Carson, Mrs. J. W. Andrews, Miss Jukes, Mr. A. McLachlan, Mrs. F. Stanley and child, Mrs. F. Ross and children for Genoa, Mr. Jon. Thyen, Mr. and Mrs. Vela, Mr. M. N. Takorin, Lieut. Travinsky, and Mr. G. Dobbecke; for Antwerp, Mr. P. Ruth; for Bremen, Mrs. Singewald; from Japan for Singapore, Mrs. Takao Masano, and Mr. Hamamoto Minekichi; for Suez, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Hughes; for Naples, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Cary and children; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Walter, Consul and Mrs. von Krenski and four children, Miss Paula Weise, Messrs. I. Schoene, H. Omori, and Dr. H. Miyake; for Southampton, Mrs. I. C. Hartland and child, Mrs. V. Blad and child, Mrs. Dunlop and child, Mrs. B. S. Edwards and child, Mrs. E. Reynell and children, Mr. and Mrs. M. Baldwin and child, and Miss Payne; for Bremen, Mr. B. A. Munster, and Mr. H. Okushima; from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. E. Reim, Edwards, and G. A. Prout, Mrs. Ada Gold, Messrs. L. Saliker and Max Heller; for Port Said, Messrs. Antonio Vota, Merlo Felix, and Borella Louis; for Naples, Mr. F. Howell; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Stephan C. Michaelsen and 2 children, Miss Susanne Habekost, Mrs. N. A. Siebs, Mr. and Mrs. Mendezona and child; for Southampton, Capt. and Mrs. Dodd and child, Mrs. Brooke Pigot and child, Miss Layton, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Johnson and 2 children, Miss Flemming, Messrs. W. Fisher, F. McDonald, W. Reynell, and J. L. Duncan; for Bremen, Capt. Hansen, Messrs. Christian Holmsen, H. Gundersen, Jacob Larsen, and F. Person.

Per *Suisang*, for Singapore, Messrs. Lu Kim Ting, Kok Tin Cheong, Ng Tin Mein, Wing Tak, N. Plant, and Oglesby.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Messrs. Muller, Sackermann, Kammergell, N. Basila, Stephenson, Esumbe, Hayato Fonkonba, and Mrs. Blanca de Cabro.

Per *Wingsang*, for Shanghai, His Excellency Choa, Mrs. Pinkerton and child.

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